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Friday January 19 1996

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Andorra FF 10
Austria AS 28
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Belgium BF 62
Bulgaria L 170
Canada CA 1.20
Czech Republic KC45
Denmark D 5.50
Ecuador E 1.50
Finland FM 11
France FF 10
Germany DM 3.50
Greece G 1.50
Hong Kong HK 2.5
Hungary F 200
Iceland IK 185
India IN 25
Israel IS 9.50
Italy L 3.00
Japan J 1.00
Korea KR 1.00
Latvia LV 50
Lebanon LS 1.50
Lithuania LT 50
Luxembourg LF 55
Malaysia M 2.00
Malta ML 0.40
Morocco D 15
Netherlands G 3.75
Norway NK 15
Oman OH 1.00
Pakistan R 70
Poland Z 7.00
Portugal P 2.00
Qatar QH 0.50
Romania RO 1.00
Saudi Arabia S 1.00
Slovakia SK 1.20
Slovenia SL 7.60
Spain P 16
Sweden SK 16
Switzerland SF 3
Thailand B 80
Turkey TL 10.00
Ukraine US 2.00
USA US\$ 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,453

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Art, books and music

Review

Victor Keegan on the end of work

Young turn to 'career crime'

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

A NEW class of career criminal involving nearly a third of young men is being generated partly by youth unemployment, according to Home Office research published last night.

The official study challenges the Government's dismissal of a link between crime and joblessness and warns that for the first time there is a generation of young men who are no longer "growing out of crime" by their late teens.

Instead growing numbers of young men in their twenties are becoming involved in crime, particularly theft and fraud. By the age of 25 more than 30 per cent of young men are involved in some form of crime — and that excludes illegal drug use or motoring offences.

The report says the lack of a prospect of a job is making it far more difficult for a large section of the younger generation to "grow up" and make the transition to responsible adulthood.

About 40 per cent of black and white young people admitted having committed a crime compared with 25 per cent of Asian youngsters.

But its stark conclusion that a new generation of "perpetual adolescents" is emerging, embedded in a criminal lifestyle fuelled by heavy use of alcohol and drugs, is likely to spark fierce debate.

The Home Office study concludes: "Young men are finding it more difficult and taking longer to make the transition to adulthood. But with the declining number of young people in employment, the capacity for the world of work to provide a rite of passage for young males has diminished."

Lack of job prospects is part of the problem, but the Home Office researchers pinpoint other factors. In particular the quality of the relationship between young people and their parents is seen as a key factor in whether they turn to crime.

Among measures they advocate to help this new generation get out of crime is better preparation for early fatherhood, classes for parents of teenagers, and temporary housing, training and a job.

America mourns the passing of Minnesota Fats, and with him the world of shady pool room operators

Jonathan Freedland
in Washington

AMERICA'S pool players were last night mourning the game's greatest name, after the death of the man they called The Hustler — Minnesota Fats.

died at his home in Nashville yesterday, apparently from congestive heart failure. He was 83.

Once called the Muhammad Ali of pool, Minnesota Fats was more admired for his flamboyance than his raw ability. "He was never the best pool player in the world — but he was the most colourful, and the best ambassador for the game," said Kirstin Pires, spokeswoman for the Billiard

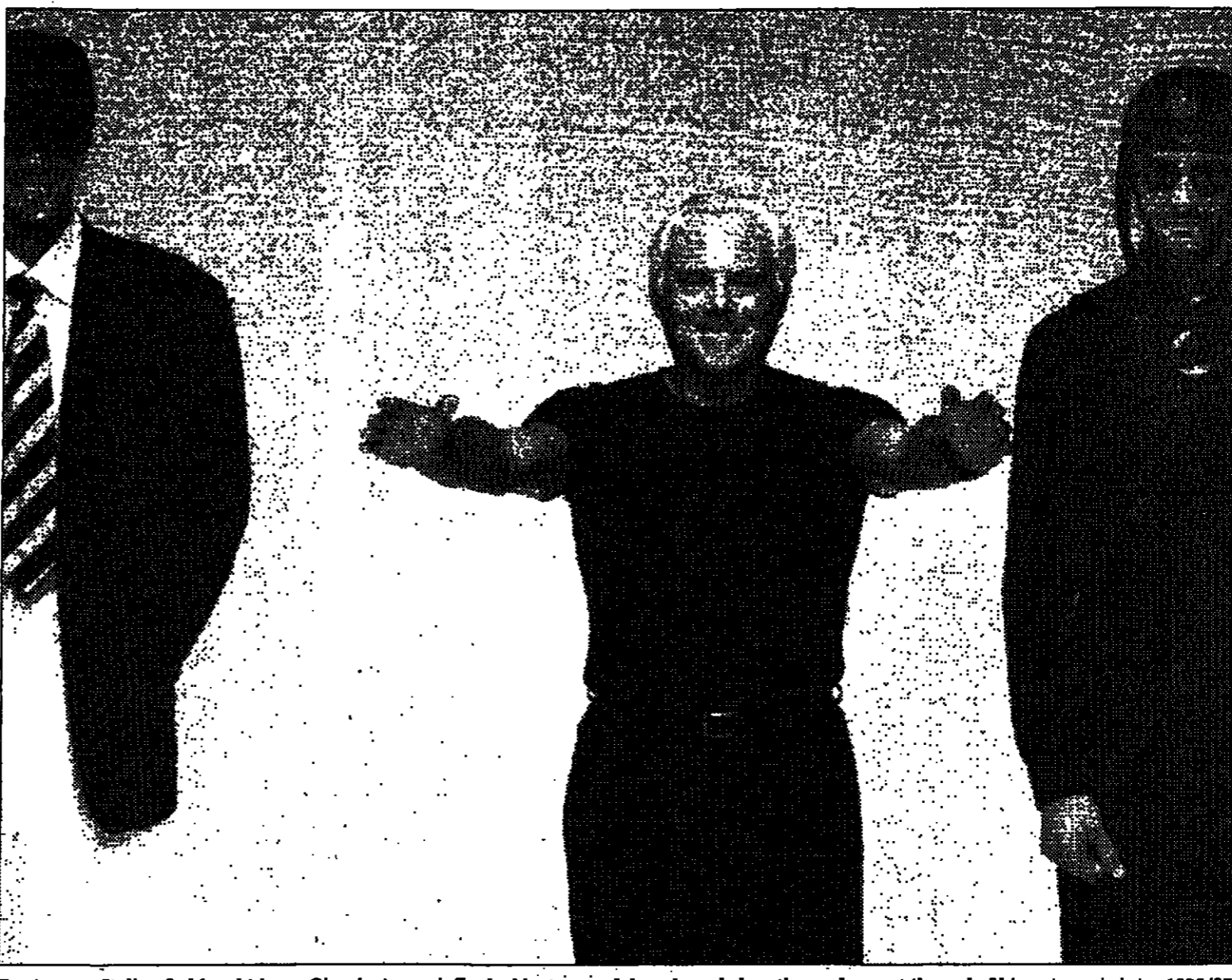
The world's biggest egos

Exposing the music business



What makes a bestseller?

Plus: Monarchy and matrimony



Top dogs... Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani, flanked by two models, acknowledges the applause at the end of his autumn/winter 1996/97 men's wear show at Milan yesterday. His latest designs revert to the 1950s and 1970s

Rebel chief eludes Yeltsin

David Hearst in Moscow
James Meek in Kemi yurt,
Dagestan, and
Chris Nutball in Ankara

SALMAN Raduyev, leader of the "Lone Wolf" gang that defied the might of the Russian army, appeared last night to have escaped after Russia overcame the last pockets of Chechen rebel resistance in the destroyed village of Pervomayskaya, Dagestan.

The 10-day crisis ended as it had begun, in confusion and disbelief. Smirking grimly in the Kremlin, President Boris Yeltsin claimed to have "taught Dudayev a lesson" — a reference to the Chechen separatist leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev. Mr Yeltsin claimed 82 hostages held by the gang in the village had been freed and 153 Chechen rebels killed, with 26 captured. He said 26 Russian soldiers had died.

The Russian military also claimed that dozens of the Chechen gunmen had been killed during an attempted breakout from Pervomayskaya. Like the other statements, this could not be independently verified. Foreign journalists were moved away from the scene on Wednesday.

Major offers 'white flag' to right

Promised policy statement 'may not spare PM fresh defeat ahead of Maastricht review'

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Cabinet yesterday capitulated to Euro-sceptic pressure for a tougher stance against further European integration when it announced it will issue a white paper on the subject.

But the move may not save John Major from another humiliating Commons defeat ahead of the Maastricht review conference in March, Tory rightwingers warned last night.

MPs were caught off guard by the Cabinet's unanimous decision to outline what ministers called "our general objectives" for the forthcoming EU conference.

Westminster whispers about one cabinet member, Lord Cranborne, leader of the Lords, as a potential malcontent stung him into an emphatic statement of loyalty. "I owe the prime minister a great deal, am entirely loyal to him and will continue to do so. I will do whatever I can to help him and the Conservative Party win the next election," he told the Guardian.

In reality most Tory MPs, even malcontents, assume that the leadership issue remains a stalemate, partly because Mr Major is unlikely to quit, even if the May elections results are poor. If he did, they concede, all the main contenders, Kenneth Clarke, the "two Michaels" — Heseltine and Portillo — and John Redwood, are currently seen as damaged goods.

Leadership plots, however remote, are demoralising for embattled ministers. But Europe is a much more dangerous matter. Many MPs assume that, as before the Maastricht negotiation in 1991, Mr Major will seek a formal Commons endorsement for the position taken by the white paper, or be forced into one.



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In public one leading sceptic, Bill Cash, welcomed the white paper. "The Government is to be congratulated. The move should remove a great deal of uncertainty about the Government's European policy," he wrote.

Mr Major and his foreign secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, whose rhetoric is increasingly sceptical, have laid out British resistance to any sweeping extensions of EU competence for the year-long inter-governmental conference (IGC) due to open in Turin on March 29 and to review the workings of the Maastricht Treaty.

Such items as a refusal to extend qualified majority voting (QMV) into such sensitive policy fields as the environment, resistance to greater powers for the EU court, the Strasbourg parliament and the Commission, are relatively easy for Tories to support — the "lowest common denominator," as Labour's Robin Cook put it last night.

Far trickier for ministers to finess with sceptics are key Franco-German aims such as the closer integration of foreign defence and immigration policy, "pillars" and long-term reform of farm, budget and fisheries policies.

A defeat would not bring the government down, or even change the policy, but would be a far more serious blow to its morale and cohesion than last month's Commons defeat on the EU fisheries policy. "If they were to lose the vote their European authority would be in tatters," one Tory sceptic predicted.

Mr Major will use a big speech in the Midlands today to defend the enterprise culture as having a far broader meaning for individual success than mere business culture.

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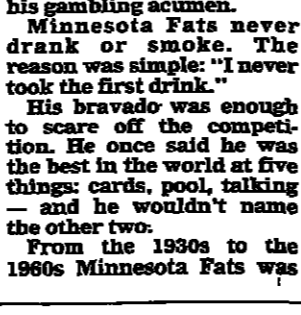
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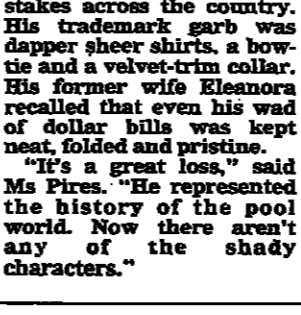
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03



Sita would be glad to collect her water from a stand pipe



Recently thousands of people in the UK had to collect their water from stand pipes and water tankers — and that's exactly what Sita and her community would like to do.

Because for many people in the developing world, the only sources of water are polluted ponds and rivers many miles away.

If you sponsor a child like Sita through ACTIONAID, we could work closely with the child's community to provide a permanent source of safe, clean water close to the village. Besides improving their health, it would give children time to go to school and allow mothers to earn their own income.

Please sponsor a child and give a community and its children some of the things we take for granted.

Please send me details about sponsoring a child, or call 01460 61073. I am interested in sponsoring in: Africa Asia Latin America Middle East South America Europe Oceania Other I don't sponsor a child now, but would like to do so. Make cheque/POs payable to ACTIONAID and send to ACTIONAID, FREEPOST 954888, Great Somerset Way, 18179

Address: _____
Postcode: _____
ACTIONAID

Sketch

Howard slips out of his manacles



Simon Hoggart

THE HOME Secretary made a statement yesterday on the shackling of pregnant woman prisoners. The Tories are split on the issue.

There are those who support the idea that women in labour (or indeed women in New Labour) should be chained up. There are those, on the other hand, who think their new born babies should be manacled as well, just in case they try anything on.

congratulate each other. Given the polls, this may be connected with seppuku, Japanese ritual suicide.

Tony Blair yesterday rejected Tory claims that his vision of a stakeholder economy is about making us one nation again.

He claimed there was already widespread business support for his ideas, citing companies such as John Lewis, Rover, Marks and Spencer and BP.

Speaking at his first public meeting since his phrase came to grip political debate, he threw back Tory criticism of his slogan, arguing: "In the Tory economy, the no stake economy, they do not mind millions in dead end jobs with no career prospects."

He said that several prominent business advisors "saw competitiveness and success comes from a stakeholder approach. The great lesson they draw from their research is that companies that treat their workers as

Blair defends his vision of stakeholder economy

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair yesterday rejected Tory claims that his vision of a stakeholder economy is about making us one nation again.

The Labour leader told a 1,000-strong audience in Derby that he welcomed the way his vision of a stakeholder economy now lay at the heart of the political battlefield.

Speaking at his first public meeting since his phrase came to grip political debate, he threw back Tory criticism of his slogan, arguing: "In the Tory economy, the no stake economy, they do not mind millions in dead end jobs with no career prospects."

'Nazi' attack kills 10 in Germany

Three held as asylum-seekers goes up in flames

AT LEAST 10 immigrants and asylum-seekers died in an inferno at their homes in the north German port of Lübeck yesterday in what appeared to be the worst racist in Germany since the war.

Three young neo-Nazis from eastern Germany were being questioned by police last night on suspicion of murder and arson. They were found with 100 litres of the blaze at 4am just after the fire started.

Police said the three males, aged 16 to 21, at least one of them a skinhead, were "well known to them" and that police had seen them driving to the scene before the blaze.

Rescue workers expected the death toll to rise. They said that a family with several children resident in the hostel's attic were missing.

Another 20 people were seriously injured in the inferno which started in the middle of the night and took firefighters four hours to bring under control. Many of them were hurt leaping to safety.

The large, white, turn-of-the-century house accommodated mainly Africans seeking asylum as well as refugees from the Middle East and some ethnic Germans from eastern Europe.

Last night grief-stricken, nervous, and angry Lübeck Africans gathered outside the house shell, marching in protest and bearing placards. "We are human beings too," they proclaimed. They were joined by 500 Germans bearing flowers and candles. Several hundred Germans marched in an anti-racist demonstration in the nearby city of Hamburg.



A woman cries in front of the asylum-seekers' home in Lübeck that was set on fire early yesterday morning, killing at least 10 people. Firemen (below) took four hours to control the blaze

Several hundred Germans marched in an anti-racist demonstration in the nearby city of Hamburg. A visibly shaken President Roman Herzog said that if the tragedy was confirmed to be caused by racist violence, he would raise the issue of increased police powers.

The speed with which the fire spread and the fact that it broke out in several points at once suggested an arson attack, police said, although they did not rule out a more innocent cause.

Winfried Tabarelli, the Lübeck CID chief, said it was too early to say whether the three Germans would be charged, but the state prosecutors in Schleswig-Holstein said they expected to open an investigation into murder and arson.

Police spotted the trio driving to Lübeck before the fire from the neighbouring state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in what used to be east Germany, 30 minutes away by car.

Lübeck, a pretty northern port best known for its marzipan and as the native town of the writer Thomas Mann, has suffered some of the most notorious racist attacks of the past few years.

On the Jewish Passover holiday two years ago, the town's synagogue was fire-bombed in the first attack on a Jewish house of prayer in modern times in Germany.

"It's disastrous that Lübeck is back in the headlines for this after the two synagogue attacks," said Heide Simonis, Social Democrat prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein.

Table with 4 columns: Pay and conditions, Unionisation, Employee share ownership, and Employee involvement. Rows include TLP, Above average, Not in UK, Not comparable, Widespread, Average for industry, and Good.



Alistair Darling: favoured cultural, not legal change

partners are the ones that succeed. In remarks likely to be contrasted with recent interpretations by union leaders, Mr Blair said: "The stakeholder economy is the key to preparing our people and business for fast economic and technological change. It is not about giving power to corporations or unions or interest groups. It is about giving power to you, the individual."

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, stressed that legal reforms may eventually play a role in bringing about a stakeholder economy, but they would not be the starting point.

Labour also moved to appropriate the Tory vision of an employee/shareholder economy, claiming the Tories had failed to spread shareholding among staff, despite legislation.

Mr Blair was supported by a speech from his City spokesman Alistair Darling, who called for a big increase in employee share ownership.

He said it would offer both motivation and reward for success. It should no longer be regarded as an optional extra but the norm in a dynamic economy.

"The importance of securing participation by the workforce... is a major part of the philosophy of stakeholding," Mr Darling said.

"That does not need more laws, more rules or more regulation. Many firms understand and practice

stakeholding already, but more is required. What is needed is a change of culture."

However, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, responded by claiming the number of individual shareholders had increased from 3 million to 10 million under the Conservative government.

"Nine out of 10 employees in BT, British Gas and British Aerospace got shares in their companies. Labour, opposed these opportunities."

Portillo faces dilemma over strings on big Gulf arms deal

DAVID HIRST in Beirut and DAVID FAIRHALL in London

BILLED as the last great arms deal of the century, a purchase of \$4 billion worth of long-range strike aircraft by the United Arab Emirates is threatening to entangle Britain in unwelcome military commitments that could involve subjecting British troops to the laws of an Arab state.



PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRISTOF STACHE, MICHAEL PROBST

First night

Reincarnation of Wildean insight

Michael Billington

An Ideal Husband

Theatre Royal, Haymarket

PETER HALL'S superb production of Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband' was first seen at the Globe in 1993. It is now revived, with the original cast virtually intact, a just return since it finds new layers of meaning in a play that has always been seen as an awkward mixture of melodrama and bons mots.

Hall's approach is to treat Wilde's melodrama as farce and his comedy as fundamentally serious. The basic plot concerns Mrs Cheveley's attempt to blackmail Sir Robert Chiltern, a rising politician, into endorsing a fraudulent Argentinian canal scheme because she knows that his own fortune was built on a piece of dishonest insider trading.

There is an eternal topicality about the idea that a moralising politician is a whited sepulchre. There is also something eerily prophetic — the play first appeared in 1895 just before Wilde's own downfall — with the obsession with blackmail, scandal and double lives. But Hall shrewdly treats the third act, with its eavesdroppings, mistaken identities and eventual routing of the scheming Mrs Cheveley, as a piece of riotous comedy that allows us to swallow its creaking contrivances.

What makes this a landmark in modern Wilde productions is Hall's uncovering of the author's deep-seated charity and compassion. He does this by treating the Wildean figure of Lord Goring not as the usual vehicle for

epigrams but as a man of extraordinary sanity and kindness. In Martin Shaw's impeccably performed, he reminds me of Baudelaire's observation that "dandyism is the last flicker of heroism in decadent ages."

Physically, even down to the buttonhole, Shaw is almost a reincarnation of Wilde himself, a fleshy figure who looks like a slightly debauched Adonis. But, under the heavy-lidded eyes and the ironic hand-on-hip stances, Shaw reveals Lord Goring's profound humanity. When he tells Lady Chiltern, who places her husband on an impossible pedestal, that "nobody is incapable of doing a foolish thing, nobody is incapable of doing a wrong thing," he reminds us that the art of the dandy is to hide his goodness and wisdom under a mask of affectation.

"Nobody is incapable of doing a foolish thing, nobody is incapable of doing a wrong thing," he reminds us that the art of the dandy is to hide his goodness and wisdom under a mask of affectation.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday

Clarke bonus as lottery tax looks set to take £700m

David Hencke

KENNETH Clarke is emerging as the biggest winner from the National Lottery, with his revenue nearly doubling to £700 million a year from the game.

Figures from the Inland Revenue reveal the Treasury's take from the lottery in the four months after its launch was £104 million against an expected £80 million. The Treasury expects to make £700 million a year from the game.

The lottery bonus is in sharp contrast to Mr Clarke's two other new taxes. Revenue from air passenger duty was \$84 million compared with an expected £105 million. Insurance premium tax brought in £117 million compared with an estimated £280 million.

CATALYYS

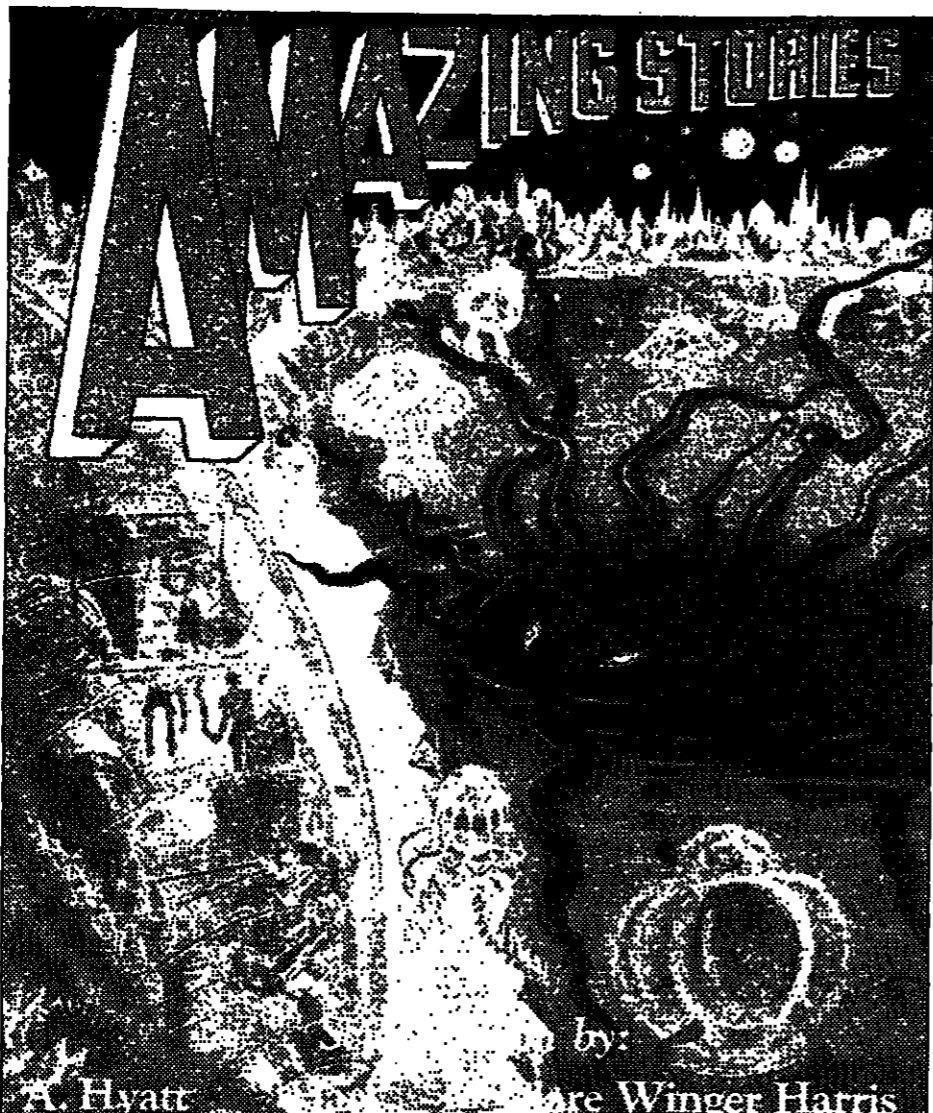
If you want to speed your rise up the corporate ladder, CATT's new management development programmes could provide the catalyst you need. Developed by The Open College, the UK's leading skills development and training provider, CATT distance learning enables you to study at home without the need to attend workshops or seminars. Each study programme comes complete with comprehensive learning material and fast access to tutorial support. For details of the new CATT Management Development Series, complete the coupon or call Linda Evans on: 0161 434 0007

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: مكتبة الامم

LIFE BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT: Astronomers have found plausible abodes for our extraterrestrial neighbours, 35 light years from Earth

Planet Goldilocks a haven for life out there



Earthlings observe wildlife on Neptune in H. Wesso's Amazing Stories, published in 1929

'If there are creatures there they are going to be short and fat, not long and thin like us. They will be more like crabs than sheep and would move by scuttling sideways'

Tim Radford
Science Editor

US ASTRONOMERS have discovered two planets orbiting stars 35 light years away which could support the formation of life. Yesterday they christened one of them Goldilocks.

San Francisco State University and researcher Paul Butler, at a meeting of astronomers in San Antonio, Texas. "We have tentatively nicknamed one of these planets Goldilocks because Jeff said to me one night this one is just right," Dr Butler said yesterday. "I said it must be Goldilocks."

Using similar techniques, astronomers had already

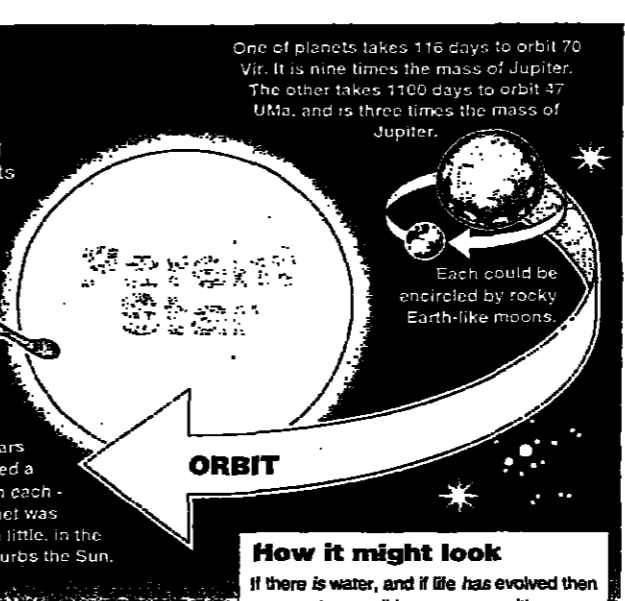
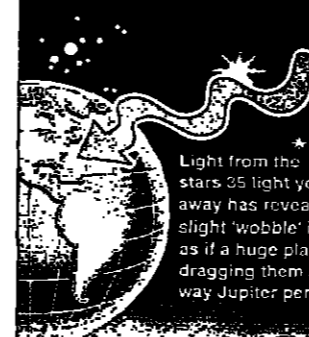
claimed two other planet discoveries in other constellations. One — orbiting a pulsar, or neutron star — could not be a home to any recognisable form of life. Another, 51 Pegasi, spotted in the Pegasus constellation last year by two Swiss astronomers and confirmed by Prof Marcy and Dr Butler a week later, was the first "solar system-type" planet to be detected, but was too massive, too close to its parent star and therefore, at 1,000C, too hot.

But 70 Vir and 47 UMa are another story. "The stars are very like the sun. The orbits are not unlike the Earth's orbit. One of them orbits at about half the Earth-sun distance. One of them orbits at about twice the Earth-sun distance. So they both are in a region where you would expect liquid water to be able to exist," Dr Butler said.

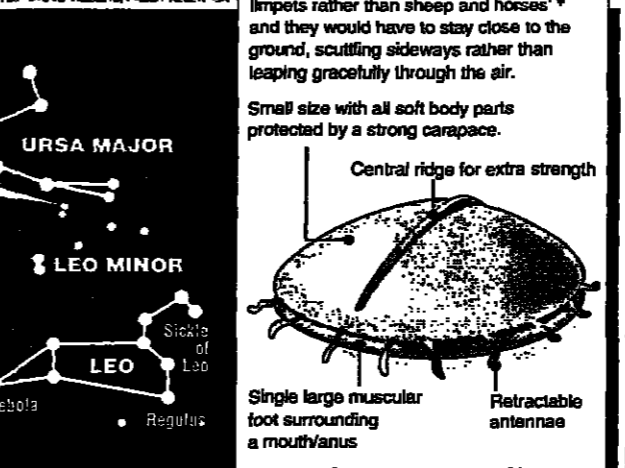
The real significance of the find may simply be that there are Earth-like planets out there. There is nothing

Is there life out there?

Two distant stars, 47 Ursae Majoris and 70 Virginis, could have massive planets at orbits at which liquid water could form on the surface. Without liquid water, there can be no life.



Where they are?



A brief history of time

EXTRATERRESTRIAL life has been bothering earthbound scientists for about 2,000 years. Lucrētius, the Roman thinker, speculated in *De Rerum Naturae* that the seeds of life might be drifting about in the vastness of space, looking for somewhere to grow. This idea — known as Panspermia — was revived a century ago by the Swedish Nobel award-winning chemist Svante Arrhenius (who also predicted the greenhouse effect) and again a decade or two ago by Sir Fred Hoyle, the British astronomer.

Nobody has ever actually seen extraterrestrial life. But that hasn't stopped anyone imagining it. In the 18th century Voltaire had a go in the science fiction fable *Micromégas*. Thomas Jefferson, founding father and president of the United States, believed in life on other planets. Typically, the debate then was about whether such creatures had souls to be saved. In the 20th century, C. S. Lewis imagined beautiful and innocent life on Mars and Venus. The only planet in need of divine redemption was Earth.

Fell To Earth the alien turned up as David Bowie.

The other great science fiction theme was a simple reverse. Mankind had rendered its planet uninhabitable and was looking for other Edens to spoil. Sometimes superior alien forces — as in the cold war allegory *Childhood's End*, by Arthur C. Clarke — would take over Earth for its own good. Sometimes — as in Dan Dare, *Star Trek*, *Flash Gordon*, *Star Wars* — space was simply full of warring life forms fighting with lasers or phasers.

Attempts to imagine plausible alien civilisations usually end up with humanoids of a sort. This is because eyes for observing, mouths for talking, hands for wielding tools and legs for locomotion all seem vital for establishing a civilisation. But modern exobiologists recognise that carbon, hydrogen and oxygen need not be the only bases for life. There could be a silicon variety: if life was simply information which could renew itself, then how about a universe colonised by self-replicating computers?

In October 1995, Father Piero Coda, writing in the newsletter of the Italian Bishop's Conference, cleared up one puzzling point. Aliens may have souls to be saved. "Having their failings, and created by God and in need of redemption, they too would have a part in the saving work of Jesus Christ," he said.

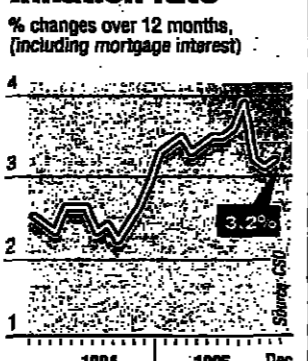
Clarke's loan rate cut 'to boost Tory fortunes'

Larry Elliott and Richard Thomas

THE intense political pressure on the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to boost the Government's fortunes was underlined yesterday when he brushed aside Bank of England misgivings and cut interest rates for the second successive month.

Alarmed by the recent weakness in growth, Mr Clarke instructed the Bank's governor, Eddie George, to trim the cost of borrowing by 0.25 percentage points to 6.25 per cent. The cut — announced early yesterday — delighted the City and industry but is unlikely to lead to cheaper home loans. Leading building societies said they had already taken account of a quarter-point cut when they reduced mortgage rates before Christmas.

Inflation rate



0.25 point fall, the Chancellor and the Governor shared a platform in a show of unity. Yesterday officials said minutes of their meeting would not be published for six weeks. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' treasury spokesman, said: "This interest rate cut, coming on the same day that inflation is shown to have risen and is still well above the Government's target range, has clear political overtones. The haste... suggests that the Government is desperate to pump up the economy prior to the general election, and that it doubts the achievability of its own growth forecasts."

believes the underlying picture is favourable, with the latest data for prices at the factory gate showing subdued cost pressures.

He added that the economy was "continuing to grow but at a rate which is clearly below trend" and that the international climate had worsened recently, particularly in Europe.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said the cut was "accompanied by yet another admission that the economy is growing more slowly than the Chancellor hoped just two months ago". The cut was insufficient without action to tackle job insecurity and long-term underinvestment.

In the City, hopes that lower interest rates will produce stronger growth drove the FTSE 100 index of leading shares up 4.5 points to a new record of 3748.7.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said the decision would help hard-pressed manufacturers, but suspected that political priorities influenced the timing. Michael Saunders, at Salomon Brothers, said: "The speed with which rates have fallen raises the risk [that] Mr Clarke is gambling with the inflation target — and will make a series of further rate cuts — to hit his 3 per cent growth target."

Chancellor wins kudos, and City Notebook, page 11

Rebel leader eludes forces encircling hostage town

Continued from page 1

vice spokesman, General Alexander Mikhailov, had earlier given lurid accounts of how the Chechens had hung, shot and burned hostages.

The Turkish prime minister, Tansu Ciller, said the ship, being shadowed by two navy destroyers, had to be stopped before it reached the Bosphorus straits. The gunmen on board have threatened to blow up the ship.

Their leader, Mohammed Tocian, told Turkish television by telephone that he had lost confidence in negotiations. Hearing of the end of the fighting in Dagestan, he said his original demands for Russian forces to let the Chechen fighters there to go free were no longer valid. "There is nothing to ask of Russia any more," he said. "They have lost their minds, they are only looking for blood."

The foreign ministry denied reports that it had offered to allow the militants to hold a news conference in Istanbul before surrendering.

INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATION AGAINST TERRORISM.

The Government has announced that it is setting up an independent inquiry to look into the future need for counter terrorism legislation once peace has become established in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry will consider what legislation will be needed to deal with the longer term threat from all kinds of terrorism.

The inquiry is to be carried out by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd of Berwick. He will be assisted by Sir Brian Kerr, a Northern Ireland High Court Judge, who will advise on Northern Ireland matters. Lord Lloyd will be consulting widely and he would like to receive comments and contributions from the public.

If you have any views relating to the law against terrorism which you would like Lord Lloyd to consider, please write to him at PO Box 9998, London SW1H 9ZB.

In three years as Channel 4's head of music, I did not expect to come across such a thick concentration of sad, ill-adjusted, egotistical, cruel, deluded, ruthless, two-faced Napoleons-in-waiting. And that is merely in the world of classical music. In the pop world there are just as many bastards but they are nowhere near as well educated.

Review cover story

4 BRITAIN

Police test CS sprays to combat violence

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

INCAPACITANT sprays are to be issued to the police on a trial basis in response to the growing number of violent attacks on officers...

The announcement that tests in 16 forces will take place for a six-month period from March 1...

James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside and the president of ACPO, said the decision to carry out trials had the unanimous support of all 43 forces in England and Wales...

Tony Burden, chief constable of Greater London, said: "The fact that the police service has to go down this path is regrettable in itself but it is necessary...

CS is a crystalline solid named after Corson and Stoughton which first made it in 1928. It is not a gas, but is fired in a jet into an assailant's eyes...

Irritating the eyes and making breathing difficult. The effects normally last less than 15 minutes and are dissipated by water or fresh air.

Fred Broughton, the chairman of the Police Federation, yesterday welcomed the decision to test the sprays although the federation had expressed a preference for OC (pepper) sprays...

Mr Broughton said: "The hand-held incapacitant spray is a vital part of the strategy required to overpower armed or violent offenders."

The Home Office minister David Maclean said: "The health effects of CS have been thoroughly researched to the level which would be required for a pharmaceutical drug."

The 16 forces where the spray will be tested are: Avon and Somerset, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Dorset, Durham, Dyfed Powys, Greater Manchester, Kent, Leicestershire, Merseyside, the Metropolitan Police, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, West Mercia, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

Mr Sharples and Bill Taylor, Commissioner of the City of London police, said the council had discussed and now supported the creation of a national squad to fight organised crime.

ACPO is concerned about the role MI5 might play in dealing with organised crime. Senior officers feel the Security Service Bill does not address their concerns about accountability and transparency.



Lord Young, about to become a father at 80. The number of children with fathers over 60 has risen by 45 per cent to nearly 650 a year over the past 10 years

Peer beats Chaplin in elderly father stakes, but fails to match up down under

John Ezard

LORD Young of Dartington, father of more than 40 radical innovations in British life over the last half century, is readying himself for his newest and - at his age - most distinctive project.

He and his family declined to discuss the prospect yesterday. But he is part of a growing trend. The number of children born in marriage with fathers aged over 60 has risen by 45 per cent to nearly 650 a year in 10 years...

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over 65 were up by 12 per cent in 1993. Lord Young remarried last summer, two years after his second wife, Sacha Moorsom, died of cancer after 33 years of marriage.

parents want to push the boundaries back. A man with Lord Young's knowledge will obviously be the most enormously stimulating father.

Jail for fax fraud that netted millions

Elaborate scam involved 60 countries and 400 victims, reports Duncan Campbell

FIVE men were jailed yesterday for their parts in an elaborate "fax fraud", which involved about 60 countries, 400 victims and millions of pounds.

The fraud was one of many emanating from Nigeria and based simply on people's desire to get something for nothing. The fraud, which has been operating worldwide for many years but which has escalated recently, involves sending a fax or letter to a name plucked from a telephone directory.

The target is offered an apparently foolproof method of making money merely by allowing his bank account to be used for the transfer of funds.

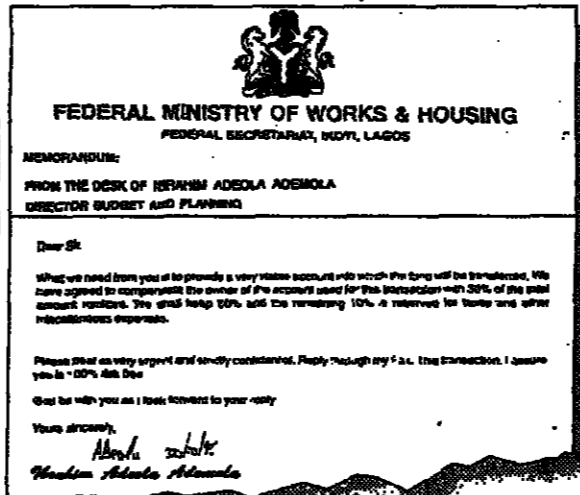
David Oluyitan, 40, of Hackney, east London, was jailed for four years; Mathew Oke, 47, of Camden, north London, for three and a half years; Abdul Khalil, 43, of Barking, Essex, for two and a half years; Victor Boulter, 53, of

Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire for five years; and Victor Watson, 55, of Highgate, north London, for five years. The first two were recommended for deportation.

Victims were offered large sums in US dollars which the fraudsters claimed were in the Central Bank of Nigeria as a result of "over invoiced" contracts. The victim was told that a British bank account was needed for the money to be transferred.

The money was to be offered a third of the money transferred, usually running into tens of thousands of pounds.

If a target responded, he would be invited to Nigeria where he was then asked to pay "local taxes" in cash before the money could be released.



travel to Nigeria, the Nigerian fraudsters (Oluyitan, Oke and Khalil) posed as agents of the Central Bank of Nigeria who would then take the victim to a notary public where he would swear a declaration that he was entitled to the money. He would then be asked to pay a £2,000 consultancy fee.

Boulton and Watson, the former from England, the latter from Barbados, would then pose as bank managers who had received money from the central bank. Using the names of real bank officials - Mr Major was one of their bogus identities - they would also require a fee.

out by requiring further payment of a "bribe" or "local tax" in order to facilitate the final transfer of tens of thousands of dollars into the victim's bank account.

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Spurs striker escapes ban after 104mph motorway trip

Sue Quinn

A COURT decision not to disqualify footballer Chris Armstrong for driving at more than 100mph in his BMW was condemned last night.

The Tottenham striker escaped a ban after telling magistrates that disqualification would interfere with his training sessions.

Telford magistrates were told Armstrong, 24, from Chigwell, Essex, had been driving at 104 mph on the M54 at Shifnal, Shropshire, while returning to London after a match at Chester on October 5.

Armstrong, who earns an estimated £7,000 a week was fined £500, ordered to pay £30 costs and given six penalty points.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said almost a third of all passengers and drivers killed each year were involved in speed-related accidents.

John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North and vice-chairman of the Conservative backbench sports committee, said: "This is an appalling decision based on a barny reason."



Chris Armstrong ... plea over training sessions

Wessex Water quits trade body in drought row

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

THE chairman of Wessex Water has withdrawn his company's membership of the Water Services Association, the trade body he headed during the summer drought fiasco which unleashed a wave of unprecedented public anger against the privatised utility.

Nicholas Hood is understood to have been furious about the way the industry's image had been damaged by the troubled Yorkshire Water, whose actions he was forced to defend in the latter half of last year.

Mr Hood, who stepped down as WSA chairman only last month, wasted no time in writing to his successor, Mike Hoffman of Thames Water, saying he felt there was no longer any good reason for belonging to the body.

The trade association, which has acted as an umbrella for all 10 regional water services groups, was set up to present a unified front and a national voice for an industry which has become increasingly diversified since privatisation, but found itself forced to act as trouble-shooter during the drought.

Mr Hood's letter bore yesterday's date and was hand-delivered to the WSA's London offices. In his response, Mr Hoffman says he regrets Mr Hood felt such action was necessary and warns that "a third front in an already fragmented industry will not help public perceptions".

Mr Hood's "desire to differentiate your company from the rest of the industry".

Mr Hood was not available for comment yesterday. But a spokesman for Wessex Water said: "We firmly believe it would be better for us and the industry if we were seen as distinct and different companies. We have different policies and approaches to customers and regulation. We do not feel that as long as we continue to present Wessex Water as part of the water industry we will not be given the credit where credit is due."

The spokesman said the move was not intended to be a criticism of the other water companies "but we feel that while we are being represented as the water industry, it is blinding the world to the achievements we have made for our customers".

The company will maintain "loose links" with the association. Last summer the reputation of the water companies sank to an all-time low as customers facing above-inflation price rises and water restrictions saw red at tales of record profits, "fat cat" bosses' pay rises, falling investment and poor service.

Yesterday Frank Dobson, the shadow environment secretary, who exposed the huge amounts of leakage from the companies' own taps, said: "I imagine that Wessex Water don't like being tarred with the Yorkshire and North-West brushes. I expect Mr Hood has suffered the embarrassment of having to defend the indefensible. And when the WSA's official policy was not to pay compensation to customers, he was placed in a difficult position because his own company was prepared to do so."

Road contractors 'quit'

Newbury bypass in jeopardy as protests add to building costs

Alex Bellis

SUB-CONTRACTORS were withdrawing from bids to build the Newbury bypass and this was putting the project in jeopardy, it was claimed yesterday.

Companies applying for the main contract to build the controversial road say the large protests have already caused some of their sub-contractors to withdraw, according to the trade journal Construction News.

The six construction companies competing for the road were having to add £20 million to their original bid estimates of £90 million to cover potential delay.

A bidder told the paper: "My impression is that subsidies don't want the job." Another said: "I'm not sure the local people are keen on the scheme and I get a feeling of a change in its political worth."

Put that with the possibility of a high tender price and I'm not sure it will go ahead. The deadline for the tenders is the end of February, and the Highways Agency will announce the winner two months later. The agency said it had been given no indication that the contractors were having problems with their sub-contractors.

The 10-day-old protest yesterday attracted its most eminent supporters so far when the leaders of six of the country's most important environmental protection bodies visited the route.

It is the first time Greenpeace UK, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the World Wide Fund for Nature, Friends of the Earth, the Council for British Archaeology and the Wild Life Trust have joined at such a high level to fight a campaign. Barbara Young, chief executive of the RSPB, said it showed the strength of the opposition.

"We have 900,000 members. There will be some who think we should not get involved. But I think it is worth the risk. Unless we demonstrate to the public and the Government that building more roads is not the answer they will carry on doing so."

Blackwell's, the company contracted to clear the nine-mile route before the main contractor is appointed, made good progress yesterday. About 100 yards of trees were cut before the chainsaws stopped at a protesters' camp.

Law-breaking lorry operators should face heavier fines for traffic offences, government advisers said yesterday, writes James Meikle.

Penalties imposed by magistrates for unlicensed loads, overloading, poor maintenance and excessive drivers' hours were so low that companies risked conviction in search of profits, according to a report by the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development.

Doctors save four children with meningitis by 'washing' blood

Chris Mihill Medical Correspondent

A TREATMENT to "wash" the blood of patients severely ill with meningitis has saved the lives of four children, doctors said today.

Dr Crispin Best and colleagues at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, report in the Lancet how they filtered the blood of four children with severe meningococcal septicaemia using a technique called haemo-diafiltration.

This technique removes from the blood inflammatory proteins which can fuel the illness, as well as excess water which can cause lung complications.

The doctors say that with conventional treatment alone they would have expected a 75 per cent death rate among the group, but all the patients - three two-year-olds and a 12-year-old - survived. Two needed legs amputated below the knee, and another

lost several toes from both feet because of complications of the illness.

The doctors state: "This treatment is speculative and will remain so until a trial is carried out. However, haemo-diafiltration is an established technique available in every paediatric intensive care unit. Our clinical impression is that its early use is potentially life-saving."

An inquiry is to be launched at Ealing Hospital, London, after a 17-year-old girl died from meningitis hours after leaving hospital. She had been given an injection for what a doctor diagnosed as flu.

The family of Alison Krunic said she was admitted to the hospital with tell-tale red blotches indicating meningitis. An hour after returning home she became comatose and was readmitted with clear signs of meningococcal septicaemia. She died two hours later.

Sinutab advertisement with logo and text: "Clears nasal and sinus congestion, relieves headache and pain."

Large Sinutab advertisement with headline: "Help painful blocked sinuses disappear with double action Sinutab." Includes a diagram of a face showing sinus locations.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Was nett your atw lead", "Saud Dom", and "A po fe The is H".

Classroom methods give young Swiss a two-year lead in maths

Donald MacLeod on success with sums

TEN-YEAR-OLDS in England are up to two years behind their Swiss counterparts in mathematics, according to a report today urging schools to adopt continental textbooks and teaching methods.

Swiss children spend far more time mastering basic arithmetic — particularly mental arithmetic — than English pupils, found Helvia Bierhof, author of the study for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Calculators are virtually banned in both Swiss and German primary schools, which use similar methods, and pupils typically do six times as many exercises as English textbooks allow for on a topic before moving to the next.

Swiss methods are already being tried in the Labour-run London borough of Barking and Dagenham, which sent teachers to observe continental practice. Tests showed improvements across the ability range, said schools involved.

Britain's problems in finding enough school leavers with the maths to cope with technical and vocational training can be traced to poor preparation in primary school, argues Ms Bierhof.

She highlights Swiss and German practices including:
□ Mental arithmetic given precedence over written methods until age nine. "Dodges" children here are expected to pick up themselves are taught.
□ More oral work given to the whole class before individual written exercises. Children encouraged to work with whole numbers not digits.
□ Calculators are not used — teachers believe they may hold back mental calculation.
□ Arithmetic forms 80 per cent of maths teaching, compared to around 50 per cent in England.
□ Consolidation using oral and written exercises is worked on until children are able to use techniques with ease and speed.
Whereas schools in England use individualised work schemes in the framework of the national curriculum, Swiss and German teachers must by law use only approved textbooks detailing steps to be followed by the class.
Pam Nuttall, head of Hunters Hall junior school in Dagenham, who visited Germany and has sent three staff to Switzerland to study their methods, believes they have been proved successful by tests although they cannot be imported wholesale.
Children showed more confidence with numbers and the best were doing "astounding" mental calculations. Far from drilling them by rote, the new teaching involved a lot of class discussion, with eight and nine-year-olds showing their own methods to the rest of the class on an overhead projector. Ms Nuttall now aims to extend such methods to her six-year-olds.
Roger Luxton, the borough's principal inspector, said the experiment, started 18 months ago, had reduced the "tail" of under-achievers in six primary schools without holding back the brightest children.
A century ago Matthew Arnold, the poet and school inspector, noted the same advantages in German maths teaching. "In the teaching of arithmetic I was particularly struck by the patience, the clinging to one question and answer and the avoidance of hurry, the securing of the ground... If I had been taught these matters in the way I heard them taught I would have made progress."

Laying the Foundations of the New Arithmetic, Helvia Bierhof, ES, National Institute of Economic and Social Research; 0171 222 7665

When the parents have been guilty of extreme behaviour... This should not be regarded as visiting the sins of the father on the child. But Margaret Morrissey, spokeswoman for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said: "This is making children pay for the sins of their parents. If there is a problem with a parent assaulting a teacher, the police should be called in to deal with it."

Mr Hart said: "Schools are becoming more and more worried about the safety of staff in the wake of the increased level of physical attacks or threats". Last year 69 heads and deputy heads

were assaulted or subjected to violent abuse and 12 have claims outstanding before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.
The police were reluctant to press assault charges unless bodily harm was serious enough. Prosecutions by the school under the Local Government Act had little effect since the maximum punishment was a £50 fine, Mr Hart said.
The association also complained that heads could not refuse to admit pupils with serious criminal records.
"The problem is rapidly reaching nightmare proportions. The whole system by which local education au-

thorities provide for excluded pupils is breaking down.
"The authorities cannot cope and then try to force schools to admit pupils who are often 14 to 16-year-old thugs whose needs cannot be met by other mainstream schools."

The association asked Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, for powers to exclude pupils indefinitely.
A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Employment declined to comment on the NAET's proposals, which she said would be the subject of discussions between Mr Hart and Mrs Shephard next week.

John Carvel Education Editor

SCHOOLS should be able to expel a pupil whose parents use or threaten violence against staff, the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.
The union was appealing to the Government for stronger powers to tackle disorder after the murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence outside his school in Malda Vale, west London, last month.
General secretary David Hart said: "The time has come to say it is totally unreasonable for a school to have to carry on educating a pupil

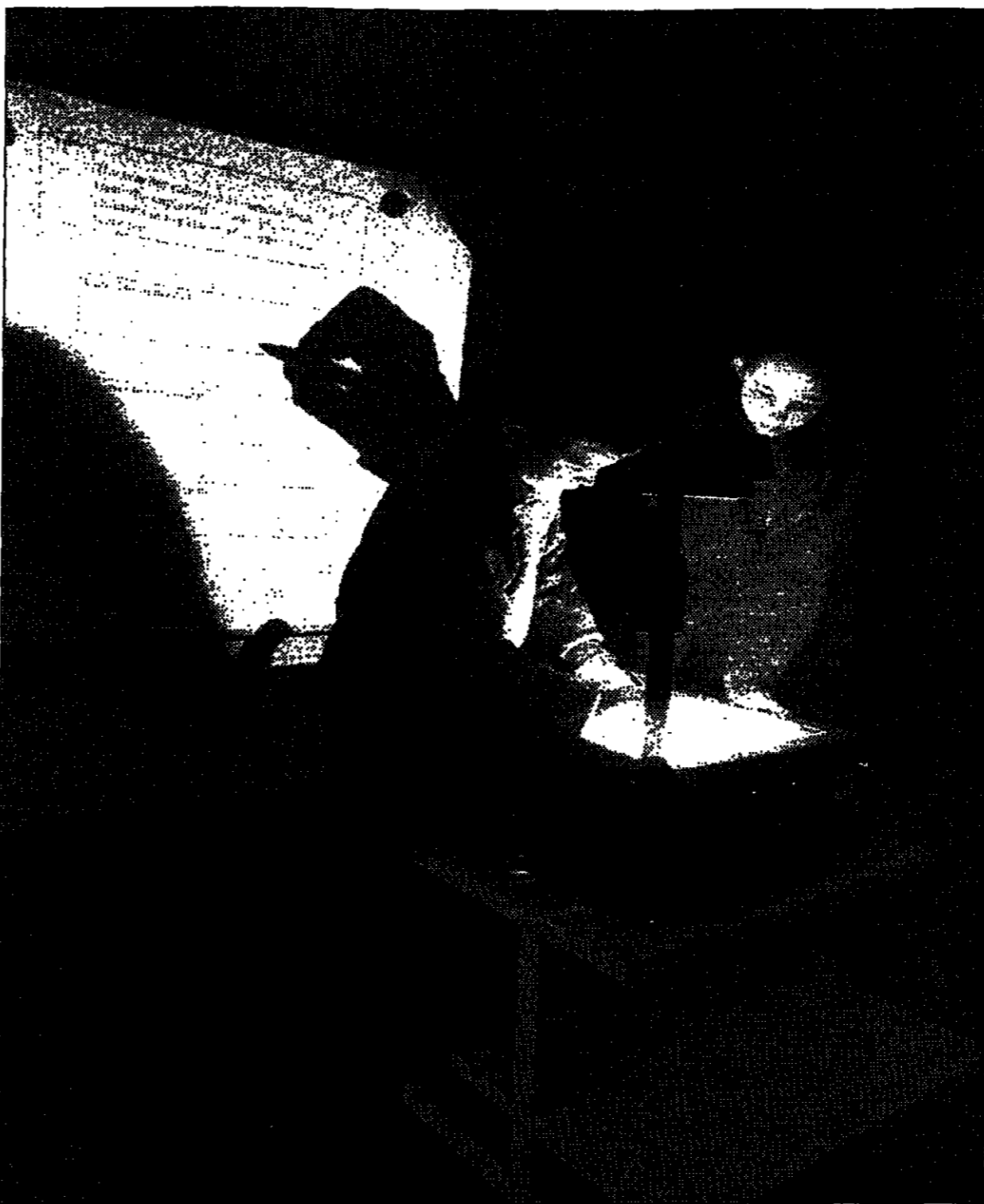
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Counting on themselves... Children at Hunters Hall primary school in Dagenham, east London, use a projector to pass on tips for solving arithmetical problems to classmates during a Swiss-style mathematics lesson. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

'Heads' plea over violent parents

John Carvel Education Editor

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Dorrell asks GPs to take more work

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

FAMILY doctors should make on an increased workload embracing elements of care provided by hospital doctors, particularly for accident and emergency patients and the mentally ill, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Dorrell, who met the British Medical Association's GP committee to set out his vision of the family doctor of the future, promised he was not trying to shift work on to general practice to save money from hospital budgets.

He said an expanded role for GPs would increase their professional satisfaction and improve care to patients. Extra pay and resources would be provided to reward GPs for the extra work by shifting money from hospital services.

The proposed changes come as part of the Government's commitment to improving primary care — treatment provided by GPs, practice nurses, health visitors and other staff outside hospitals.

Family doctors themselves are looking to renegotiate their contract of what services they provide as part of their desire to free themselves from night calls.

Mr Dorrell hoped that some agreement could be reached by the early summer, with changes possibly being implemented before a general election.

"I am aware that within the committee and the GPs they represent there will tend to be a feeling that this is unloading a new workload on GPs. Any politician has to realise that if there is going to be an extra workload, which there

needs to be, we must have discussions with the profession about how this is to be borne.

"The objective is a reasonable reward for a reasonable workload. There is an opportunity to improve the delivery of care to patients and to make the job more rewarding for the professionals themselves."

He wanted to remove many of the barriers between family doctor services and hospital care, providing a "hospital without walls" where consultants would visit GP surgeries and run outpatient sessions, and GPs would have more responsibility for treating hospital patients, under plans set out by consultants.

In particular he wanted GPs to take on more care for the mentally ill and for accident and emergency patients.

"We want to deliver more services in a primary care setting and break down the barriers between hospital services and primary care. These are two big changes which have a long way further to go."

Nurses or other staff could take up some of the routine work of GPs, and paperwork could be cut, allowing them time for their new responsibilities.

The BMA said the development of primary care meant taking on additional tasks should only take place with the consent of the profession, with the necessary transfer of resources, and after a proper evaluation of the case for change.

"General practice must not be seen as a cheap dumping ground, in which workload inexorably increases without proper funding and reward. Change should only take place in a planned and structured way, not in a haphazard and unconsidered manner."

'Naked prejudice' over Godiva prize

Michael Ellison

WHEN Coventry set about lining up a range of suitably grand events to mark the centenary of the motor car, it naturally sought to enlist the support of some of the city's most prominent citizens.

True, the 35-year-old woman who hijacked the early celebrations by removing her clothes during a church service on Wednesday was not quite what they had in mind.

But a local MP would surely not do anything to tarnish the glory of motor city?
John Butcher, MP for Coventry South-west, was invited to be a patron of the International Godiva Award, which will be given in June to "the woman that has done most to achieve social change". Nominations were invited from around the world for the title, intended to reflect "the spirit and essence of Coventry".

Mr Butcher replied on House of Commons newspaper: "I would be happy to become a patron of the International Godiva Award but only on the grounds that the award will not include a nominee who has anything to do with AIDS, multiculturalism, environmentalism, sexism or feminism."

"I only mention this because I am getting very bored with a fashion which has almost become a form of censorship which only considers people doing good works in these areas to receive awards or recommendation."

Yesterday the former Department of Trade and Indus-

try minister said: "The award is a good idea, but these fashionable 'isms' have had a good run over the last five years."

If they were considering someone to say the health field, about 10 times as many people die of cancer as die of AIDS. There could be a woman who's done immense work for the hospice movement and never been recognised."

Victoria Charlton, organiser of the award, said: "His restrictions would rule out Mother Teresa and Princess Anne. I thought we were living in a multi-racial society. I thought we cared about the environment and I thought feminism had achieved something. Perhaps I was wrong."

"This is not what I would have expected from a Conservative MP. His attitude to the Godiva award is naked prejudice."



John Butcher: 'No greens, feminists or sexists'

Saudi dissident rejects Dominica as safe haven

David Pallister

MOHAMMED al-Mas'ari, the Saudi dissident threatened with deportation to Dominica because of his attacks on the Saudi royal family, revealed yesterday that he was considering applying for political asylum in a more developed country in the West.

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In a calculated snub to British business — whose lucrative contracts with Saudi Arabia were said by government ministers to be the cause of his deportation order — he held the press conference in the heart of the City of London at the London Chamber of Commerce.

Popular acne drug 'causes liver failure and arthritis'

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

AWIDELY used anti-acne drug can cause severe but potentially fatal side-effects, doctors warn today after two patients died and one needed a liver transplant.

Researchers claim that minocycline can cause a severe form of arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and an immune response which can trigger a form of hepatitis.
Minocycline, an antibiotic available in tablet or capsule form, is Britain's most popular anti-acne

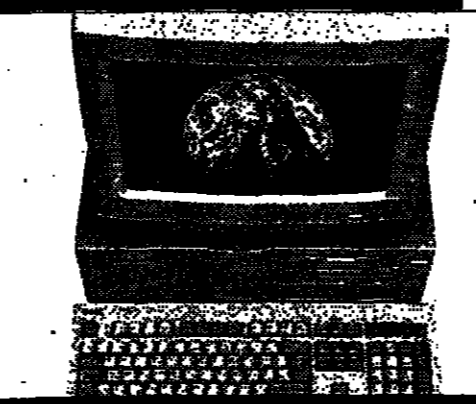
drug. In 1993 800,000 prescriptions were written at a cost of £23 million. Seven companies make the drug, which has been available since 1972 and costs around £30 a month.

The report by Paul Emery and colleagues at Leeds university in the British Medical Journal examines seven patients with serious adverse responses to the drug.
The researchers claim that the Committee on the Safety of Medicines has reports of 11 patients on the drug with the arthritis condition and 16 with hepatitis.
Doctors say two patients

have died while taking the drug, one from severe hepatitis and the other because the patient's bone marrow failed to produce sufficient blood cells. A third needed a liver transplant.
They believe there may be a case for giving patients liver function tests, but this would make it prohibitively expensive.
A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said: "These reactions are included in product information and similar side-effects occur in other antibiotics of the same class. Minocycline is a useful antibiotic for the treatment of a variety of infections including acne."

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6 WORLD NEWS

World news in brief

Simitis takes over Papandreou crown

GREECE'S ruling socialist party, Pasok, elected Costas Simitis, a reform-minded moderate, as the country's new prime minister last night. Mr Simitis, a university academic, replaces Andreas Papandreou, who resigned six days ago during his eighth week in hospital.

The former industry minister was elevated to the post by a vote margin of 11 over his competitor, Akis Tsochazopoulos, who gained 75 ballots in the two-round race. On hearing the result, Mr Simitis hailed it as an historic moment for Pasok, the Panhellenic Socialist movement founded by Mr Papandreou from an anti-junta resistance group 21 years ago.

"This is not a personal victory, but a victory for the whole of Pasok, the country and the future of the centre-left," Mr Simitis, aged 59, said in a short speech to the party.

The election was welcomed by Western diplomats who praised his pro-European views and drive for reform. "He will be less hidebound on foreign policy and probably more forward-looking on issues like Cyprus and Turkey," a European Union diplomat said.

But the victor's honeymoon, at least with the public, is unlikely to last long. Mr Simitis will inevitably be compared to Mr Papandreou, not least in his ability to unite Pasok's rival groups. While trying to satisfy the socialists' many different factions, he will also have to meet the growing demand for a more democratic leadership.

"We were prepared under Andreas Papandreou to put water in our wine and accept his kind of leadership," said Giorgos Anagnostis, the deputy economy minister. "But now we want decision-making to be more of a collective business."

The socialists are acutely aware that they have less than two years left in office. As a result, the new prime minister faces the unenviable task of placating a public that has become increasingly disgruntled with the government's handling of economic and foreign affairs. — *Helena Smith, Athens.*

Crowds mourn Abacha's son

MOURNERS crowded into General Sani Abacha's home yesterday after the Nigerian leader's eldest son, Ibrahim, was killed in a plane crash, witnesses said. "The family compound is filled with sympathisers," said Ahaji Musa, a lawyer in Kano, a city in northern Nigeria, where the presidential plane crashed on Wednesday night, killing a total of 14 people.

The News Agency of Nigeria reported that Colonel Mohammed Wase, the military administrator of Kano state, had declared yesterday and today public holidays. — *Reuter, Lagos.*

California returns to the cane

A LEGISLATIVE committee voted on Wednesday to allow schools in California to resume spanking students, despite warnings that such discipline could encourage violent behavior. The education committee narrowly approved a bill that would allow schools to use corporal punishment to discipline students if parents authorise it.

Twenty-three other states allow corporal punishment in schools, said Mickey Conroy, the Orange County assemblyman who drew up his bill after a Florida statute was upheld by the Supreme Court. The bill is likely to pass the assembly, which has a slim Republican majority, but it could run into problems in the Senate, where Democrats have the majority. — *AP, California.*

Legal ban on Mitterrand book

A PARIS court banned a book yesterday which alleges that Francois Mitterrand kept his cancer diagnosis secret for 11 years. *Le Grand Secret* (The Big Secret), published on Wednesday, was co-written by a doctor who treated Mitterrand for 14 years. Virtually all 40,000 copies of the book had been sold before yesterday's ruling.

The former president's family, using French privacy laws, argued that Dr Claude Gubler had been in breach of confidence. Judge Jacqueline Cochard ruled that the publishers, Flon, would be fined 1,000 francs (£120) for each copy sold of the 96 franc book. — *Karin Vandenhoove, Paris.*



Firefighters struggle to contain the blaze after a light trainer aircraft crashed into a clothing shop in Bandung, Indonesia, yesterday, killing 15 people. Airport officials said the plane had developed engine trouble

China arrests critic's brother

CHINESE police have arrested the brother of a former Shanghai orphanage employee who has accused officials of killing children in their care, charging him with trying to topple the government, his sister said yesterday. Zhang Jian was taken in for questioning on January 8, his sister, Zhang Shuyun, said in New York.

The detention of Mr Zhang, an official of the Booshan district people's government in Shanghai and a Communist Party member, came two days after Human Rights Watch, Asia, based in New York, issued a report on Chinese orphanages based partly on testimony by Zhang Shuyun. She said her brother was charged with "participating in the counter-revolutionary crime of subverting the government". The charge carries a minimum 10-year sentence, and a maximum death penalty.

Zhang Shuyun, a former employee of the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute, said many Chinese orphanages have a policy of deliberately allowing children in their care to die to keep numbers within budget limits. — *Reuter, Shanghai.*

Angolan summit called off

THE planned summit tomorrow between President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Jonas Savimbi, the Unita rebel leader, was called off yesterday, placing a new question mark against the latest attempt to end the civil war.

The cancellation of the meeting was announced as Madeleine Albright, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, delivered a warning to the country that the international community expected better progress towards a settlement. Mr Dos Santos said later that the summit had been called off at the request of Dr Savimbi.

Dr Savimbi was due to present Mr dos Santos, the MPLA leader, with nominations for a new coalition government, and a list of senior Unita officers to be integrated into the command of the national defence force. — *David Beresford, Luanda.*

EU sacks top finance official

THE European Commission confirmed yesterday that it had sacked a senior finance official who claimed the drive for a single European currency had damaged national economies and could ultimately lead to war.

Bernard Connolly, a Briton who headed a unit responsible for monitoring the European exchange rate mechanism, was suspended in September after the publication of his book, *The Rotten Heart of Europe*. It created a storm at the headquarters of the European Union's executive agency, Klaus von der Pals, its chief spokesman, said the views expressed in the unauthorised publication were "incompatible" with Mr Connolly's position.

Mr Connolly, who likened the Commission to a Stalinist bureaucracy intolerant of open debate, promised in September to take legal action against the Commission if he were fired. A spokesman for his publisher, Faber & Faber, said he will make a statement at the beginning of February. — *Bloombergs, Brussels.*



On patrol... Children watch Nato forces in Tuzla yesterday on the eve of the deadline for Bosnian government and Serb forces to vacate a demilitarised zone PHOTOGRAPH: CORINNE DUFFA

Soil reveals its grim secret

An empty village has yielded up 'an important part of the jigsaw puzzle' of Bosnian ethnocide. Julian Berger reports from a mass grave near Srebrenica



BONES and decomposing body parts strewn across patches of mud provide grim evidence that the abandoned village of Glogova is the site of two previously undiscovered mass graves containing the remains of Muslims slaughtered last July by Bosnian Serbs after the fall of the United Nations "safe area" of Srebrenica.

In the first visit by journalists to the area, I found indications the site had been tampered with, possibly in a botched attempt to cover up evidence of atrocities. The earth shows signs of having been bulldozed recently.

Two swaths of waterlogged ochre clay lie on either side of a dirt road in Glogova, about six miles north of Srebrenica. One is in the form of a rough circle about 30 yards in diameter just north of the road.

Near the centre, a rotting limb protrudes from the mud. It is hard to tell whether it is part of an arm or leg. Other bone fragments lie nearby.

The second muddy patch is south of the road and further to the east. It is a rectangle, approximately 20 yards by 50. A short search of the surface reveals a jawbone complete with teeth (one with a filling), the crown of a skull, and several leg-bones — all clearly

human. Remnants of clothing and shoes are scattered all around.

I also saw evidence which corroborates a survivor's testimony that the biggest massacre in the aftermath of Srebrenica took place west of Glogova, in a large warehouse in Kravica.

One survivor, Hakija Husejnovic, has told investigators that on July 13 last year, 2,000 Muslim men attempting to escape from Srebrenica were caught, crammed into the warehouse and killed with grenades and machine-guns fired through the doors and windows.

The burnt-out blue and white warehouse now stands empty at the spot Mr Husejnovic described. Clusters of bullet holes are clearly visible around the windows and doors, which are blackened with soot. The presence of Serb soldiers nearby made closer inspection impossible.

"We have reports from Kravica survivors that the bodies were taken east and Glogova is one of the places they were being disposed of," a Western investigator said.

He described the discovery of the Glogova site as "an important part of the jigsaw puzzle". It adds to a growing mass of evidence of the wholesale slaughter of Muslims from Srebrenica for which the

Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, have been indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal. Six months after the enclave was stormed, 5,000 people are still missing.

Hitherto unpublished United States satellite photographs and preliminary war crimes investigations both pointed to Glogova as the possible site of a mass grave, but only now have independent witnesses reached the area.

Glogova is the fifth mass grave linked to the Srebrenica killings to have been discovered. US officials believe there may be a sixth, a few miles west of Glogova, and perhaps more.

Satellite surveillance spotted earth-moving equipment moving to Glogova in October, three months after Srebrenica fell. US sources said it appeared that material was being removed from the site.

The treadmarks of bulldozers and the sharp furrows left by excavators still appear fresh,

Judge asks British for help

JUDGE Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor at the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague, has asked the British army for help in investigating suspected mass graves in western Bosnia. Nato sources said yesterday, writes Julian Berger.

In a letter to Admiral Leighton Smith, the commander of I-FOR, the Nato implementation force, the judge asked for troops to provide security "and other

support" in the investigation of a potential grave. Nato officials confirmed the site was in western Bosnia, where British troops are stationed near a disused mine in Ljubija. Investigators believe slaughtered Muslims and Croats may have been buried there.

A Nato spokesman said Lieutenant-General Michael Walker, the commander of the Nato Rapid Reaction Corps, was "evaluating" the request.

But that leaves open the question of why the site at Nova Kasaba — whose existence has already been revealed — has apparently been left untouched.

War crimes investigators are puzzled at what appears to be an inconsistent approach, but point to a mood of defeatism in the Bosnian Serb camp following a string of military defeats last year.

Evidence of mass graves in Glogova first appeared on satellite photographs a few days after Bosnian Serb troops overran Srebrenica, a government-held enclave declared a UN "safe area" in 1993.

On July 11 last year the UN abandoned attempts to protect Srebrenica after largely symbolic Nato air strikes had come too late to stop the Serb onslaught.

Mr Husejnovic said he was in a group of 2,000 men who surrendered on July 13. Gen Mladic came to address them.

"You know, it's not pleasant to make war with Serbia," Mr Husejnovic quoted the Serb

general as saying. The men were then led to their deaths in Kravica but Mr Husejnovic survived by playing dead and covering himself with bodies.

Srebrenica has been sealed off since last summer, but this week a group of journalists succeeded in sidestepping Serb checkpoints by using back roads through a nearby mining area.

Since its Muslim population was driven out, an estimated 6,000 Serbs have arrived from areas of western Bosnia captured last year by troops of the Muslim-Croat federation.

They have taken over flats belonging to murdered or evicted Muslims and seem to have thrown the former occupants' possessions from the windows.

Old furniture, carpets and household waste are piled up in heaps around houses and blocks of flats. The only businesses which appear to be functioning are a grocery, a telephone exchange, and a dingy cafe called the "Calypso". A line of dishevelled and emaciated people had formed outside a clinic, apparently waiting for food handouts.

One middle-aged Serb refugee said: "It's bad here. There's worse, but this is really bad. I have no job and no chance of getting one."

Questioned as to the whereabouts of Srebrenica's 40,000 Muslim former residents, the new arrivals simply shrugged.

The sandbagged bases once manned by a Dutch UN battalion — whose presence was supposed to offer protection to the local Muslims — now lie abandoned.

Juppé unveils his plan to save blighted suburbs

The prime minister's pact to help troubled estates is likely to please neither left nor right, reports Alex Duval Smith in Paris

THE prime minister, Alain Juppé, signalled a shift in his approach to social issues yesterday, with a plan to regenerate France's troubled housing estates based on subsidies and job creation.

Abandoning the bludgeoning tactics which led to three weeks of strikes over welfare reform, Mr Juppé unveiled a 15 billion franc (£2 billion) "pact for city regeneration", to improve conditions for 3 million people on lawless estates.

The plan, twice delayed, aims to create 100,000 jobs over four years and is a watered-down version of the Marshall Plan for the suburbs, which was at the centre of Jacques Chirac's presidential campaign.

While Socialists praised the plan for steering clear of the "Intifada approach" which had been proposed by the interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, he said it did not go far enough.

The Socialist MP Julien Dray said: "It is a pretty package with little substance, compared to what had been promised."

The plan incorporates 30 British-style enterprise zones where businesses will pay no taxes or employers' contributions for five years, and is aimed at ending years of blight on housing estates.

It includes measures to create jobs for under-25s. In an attempt to prevent young people — often second or third generation immigrants — from dropping out of school, new curricula will emphasise sport and culture rather than academic achievement.

The one concession to the law-and-order lobby is the deployment of 4,000 extra police. But that is a far cry from Mr Debré's demand for detention centres for persistent offenders under 13. The plan, which will affect only 350 out of the 1,300 suburbs identified as "difficult", is the eighth since 1981.

On the Noé estate at Chanteloup-les-Vignes, 30 miles north-west of Paris, jobless teenagers and social workers were unimpressed. "By not injecting enough

money in enough suburbs, the government is sending out the signal that the only way to get anything done is to riot," Yazid Kherfi, a young worker aged 37, said.

There have been no riots at Chanteloup-les-Vignes, named in the job creation scheme, since 1991. But it is famous because it served as the set for the film, *La Haine* (Hatred), which won the Palme d'Or last year.

On its main square, six out of eight businesses are boarded up. Michel Thecua, aged 59, has been trying to sell his newsagent's shop for 10 years. "We cannot get out of here and we do not particularly want tax incentives to stay," he said.

Nearby, a group of youths between 16 and 18 were smoking a joint. "Of course, we need jobs. But what happens is: the businesses get incentives to come here, then they hire people from outside," one said.

Mr Kherfi said: "The problems run so deep and there is so much despair that no one here has any faith in government measures. At street level, the equation is simple: if you see that the guy with an education is on the dole and the guy dealing in drugs is driving a BMW, which would you want to be?"

Aid depends on reform pledge, US tells Yeltsin

Martin Walker in Washington and David Hearst in Moscow

WARNING of an imminent crisis in Russia's relations with the West, the Clinton administration has told President Boris Yeltsin that it is "absolutely essential" he reaffirm his commitment to economic and political reform — or Western financial support is likely to dry up.

The state department praised three sacked Russian reformers, saying that the last to go, Anatoly Chubais, the deputy prime minister, had done "a brilliant job" in organising the world's largest privatisation programme.

The state department spokesman, Nicholas Burns said: "As we try to think about the ramifications of these resignations, and especially that of Mr Chubais, we think it is absolutely essential that President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin reaffirm the reform basis of the Russian government."

Mr Burns said it was very important that the Russian government continue to work with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and Western governments which are supporting Russia with billions of dollars. Mr



Viktor Chernomyrdin: 'One of the West's last friends'

Chernomyrdin would be told on his visit to Washington later this month: "Maintain the reform and you will maintain Western support for those reforms."

Mr Chernomyrdin is seen as one of the last, isolated friends of reform and of the West in a Kremlin increasingly dominated by hardliners. But the American pressure seems certain to backfire by provoking resentment in Russia.

Former ambassador Vasily Sofronchuk, who was deputy secretary of the United Nations from 1987 to 1992, said the IMF and World Bank

had previously lectured only third world governments on their interior and foreign policies: "Now they are doing this to Russia, which is a measure of how low Russia has fallen."

"They don't have the right to prompt or advise the government of a sovereign state about the composition of its government... If Mr Chernomyrdin understands that he is the head of a government, he should say to the US: Dear sirs, this is none of your business. This is something we shall decide ourselves."

The Burns statement will embarrass Mr Chernomyrdin, who is already in trouble with President Yeltsin and his increasingly hardline clique of advisers and favourites. The prime minister was openly contradicted by President Yeltsin after saying there would be no major ministerial changes after the general election.

US-Russian relations have deteriorated gradually since the heyday of Yegor Gaidar's radical democrat government. However, it was foreign policy issues, rather than economic reform, that caused the downturn. After Nato's bombing of the Bosnian Serbs, and its plans to expand eastwards, the West now faces a far harder Russian foreign minister in Yevgeny Primakov, a cold war veteran.

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The UAE cannot use the sophisticated warplanes it has, yet is buying more — and wants Britain and other sellers to defend it as part of the deal

Emirates in a £4bn flight of fancy



Other worlds

David Hirst

THE last time the United Arab Emirates was in the news it concerned a Filipino maid, aged 16, who stabbed her employer to

death after he put a kitchen knife to her throat and raped her. A first court confirmed the rape but found her guilty of manslaughter. A second, finding no evidence of rape, sentenced her to death.

She eventually went free when the employer's family took "blood money" in compensation. The case dramatised the scandal of indentured servitude, exploitation and abuse suffered by Asian maids in the Gulf, and the medieval interpretation of Muslim law which the courts apply to them.

It raised a greater furor in Britain than the way the House of Saud treats its dissidents — or at least it did till Saudi activist Mohammed Mas'ari came along, forcing John Major's government to make the absurd choice it did between upholding human rights and preserving

arms sales. It chose to deny Dr Mas'ari asylum.

Fortunately, the Government has no such legal obligation to protect the rights of Asian maids in the UAE as it had to safeguard Dr Mas'ari. Because it is now competing for what has been called "the last great arms deal of the century", the 50 long-range strike aircraft which the UAE wants to buy for £4 billion.

"Everyone," said a UAE official, "is dying to get this one." France — which sold the UAE £2.4 billion-worth of tanks by cutting prices hard — is pitting its Mirage 2000-5s against Britain's Tornados. President Clinton has telephoned the UAE president, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, asking him to "give a chance" to American F-16s or F-15Es.

In this buyer's market, the UAE is well placed to dictate

terms. Britain, which does not like those terms, is penalising itself, on principle, against its competitors.

The conditions are these: as the price of its largesse, the UAE insists on defence treaties with supplier countries. France has obliged, pledging

to rush a 70,000-strong rapid reaction force, 120 warplanes and 200 helicopters to defend the UAE against any aggression. The US is working on a similar pact.

But after long negotiations, Britain still balks at the UAE's demand for jurisdiction over British troops. It

seeks a formula which, as the Defence Minister, Michael Portillo, put it, "is consistent with the tradition of armed forces being responsible to their own governments — even in another country".

If Britain wins the day for Tornados by compromising

the \$600 billion the Middle East spent on arms in the last 20 years. But, says Ahmad Hashim, a strategic analyst, their purchases "constitute the most clear-cut example of the uselessness of military expenditure in the Middle East. One could paraphrase Winston Churchill and say that never in the history of armed forces have so few spent so much to create so little in the way of effective military power."

The UAE's likeliest aggressor is deemed to be Iran. Its geography — a 500-mile coastal strip — and population of 2.2 million, less than a quarter of whom are UAE nationals, mean that it can only be protected as part of a concerted, Saudi-based defence of the whole peninsula.

But the GCC's so-called Peninsula Shield, of which the joint 100,000-man army is supposed to be the core, is a

force of six states blithely embark on their independent arms-buying sprees without thought of strategic or technical co-ordination.

In the UAE's case, the confusion becomes almost lunatic. The UAE's seven emirates guard their autonomy so jealously that while the richest, Abu Dhabi, effectively controls the 65,000-man federal army, the next richest, Dubai, provides the defence minister and maintains its own 15,000-man army. Arms procurement by the seven is so individualistic that they have no fewer than 14 models of armoured cars in service.

Adding 80 state-of-the-art warplanes to the 97 the UAE possesses, but cannot properly fly, will be useless. Buyer and seller will, in effect, admit that. For this is the real meaning of the defence pacts that go with such deals. The

more the UAE buys, the readier the seller must be to come to its defence.

This bizarre logic now informs all Gulf arms purchases, including those of Saudi Arabia, the one state which, in theory, has the manpower and strategic depth to make serious use of them. Superbly equipped though Saudi Arabia was when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, it instantly sought Western protection.

The logic has little to do with warfare, much to do with the profits that go into Arab princes' pockets and prop up Western arms industries. The only real curiosity is why, after Dr Mas'ari, the British government feels it has any virtue left to preserve, and how long Mr Portillo will hold out for principles that spare British soldiers the fate of Asian maids.

Palestinians go to the polls amid unrest

Derek Brown in Jerusalem and Jessica Berry in Hebron

CAMPAIGNING for tomorrow's Palestinian general election ground to a halt yesterday in a blizzard of snow, a flurry of violence, and claims of malpractice.

Half-hearted attempts to hold demonstrations and marches came to little as hail and sleet battered Jerusalem and much of the West Bank.

In the flashpoint southern city of Hebron, Palestinians opposed to the election confronted troops guarding a small but militant community of Jewish settlers.

As protesters chanted anti-settler slogans, Amer Jabari, a freelance cameraman, was chased from the scene and roughed up by a group of soldiers before being handed over to police. The army said it was investigating.

The incident, though relatively minor, summed up a two-week campaign marred by sporadic violence and bitter confrontations.

Hebron is the only Palestinian town where Israeli troops will remain in strength during and after polling. The turnout is expected to be much lower than in the rest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinians in the town believe that, while the settlers remain, the self-rule agreement with Israel means little.

Jerusalem, too, is a case apart. Israel agreed to the participation of the city's Palestinian community of up to 85,000 adults. Around 55,000 have registered; all but 5,000, however, will vote outside the city, on Israeli orders.

Israel imposed severe curbs on campaigning in Jerusalem, banning open-air meetings, and detaining candidates who broke the rules.

Among the 672 candidates contesting 98 seats in the new legislature, there is little ideological rivalry. PLO loyalists standing for Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, representatives of a host of smaller parties, and independents.

The criticism of international monitors has been largely ignored by the Palestinian press. The Israeli observer group, Peace Watch, said yesterday the campaign had been conducted in an atmosphere of fear, with arbitrary arrests of activists.

An army of foreign observers has descended on the territories, including big teams from the European Union, Japan, Norway, and Canada. Smaller groups have come from countries more familiar with the Palestinians' style of democracy — including Egypt and Jordan — and from the International Islamic Conference.

Palestinian television and radio, under the thumb of the self-rule Palestinian Authority, reports in slavish detail the daily routine of the PLO chairman, Mr Arafat. He is involved in a parallel election for the post of ruzes (president or chairman) of the authority.

Palestinian media have barely made mention of his only opponent. Opinion polls give Samiha Khalil, aged 72, less than 10 per cent of support, and Mr Arafat around 80 per cent. Mrs Khalil, a noted social reformer, has done little to rouse the electorate with her vague policy of opposition to the Israel-PLO peace accords.

The main opposition factions, including the Islamic group Hamas and the leftwing Popular Front, are boycotting the elections, though many of their supporters are expected to back independent candidates.

'Salacious' chat show pioneer out-talked by new generation

Ian Katz in New York

PHIL DONAHUE, the silver and perpetually surprised television talk show host, is to hang up his microphone almost 30 years after pioneering the genre which has overrun American television.

The presenter, aged 60, will stop fronting Donahue at the end of the present series, after more than 6,000 shows on subjects from women, more famous imitators. In recent years his avuncular, lawyerly style has come to seem pedestrian beside sensationalist rivals.

Mr Donahue is said to have stumbled on the audience-participation format while working as a television anchorman in Dayton, Ohio. An audience had as-

sembled to watch a variety show which was cancelled, so Mr Donahue suggested they watch his interview with a celebrity atheist and chip in some questions of their own.

After the success of the programme he was given a one-hour show, later billed as the talk show "for women who think".

Although he posed tough questions and collected 20 Emmy awards, Mr Donahue came under fire for selecting salacious themes and triggering the boom in "tabloid television". In 1981 a television watchdog complained that two out of every five shows were about sex "in most of those promote abnormal sex".

At his peak in 1988, Mr Donahue claimed a 31 per cent audience share. By the time he lost his New York outlet last year, his share had fallen to about 15 per cent and he had been overtaken by at least five competitors.



A Palestinian woman grabs an Israeli soldier's rifle during clashes in Hebron yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY EYAL WASHAWSKY

Scandal upends Indian leaders

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi reports on the corruption revelations that have redrawn the political map

INDIA is undergoing a clear-out of some of its most familiar political figures who have been implicated in the corruption scandal that has electrified the atmosphere before general elections expected in April.

The 10 politicians so far facing corruption charges in the 650 million rupee (£12 million) scandal include three cabinet ministers, as well as L. K. Advani, president of the main opposition rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Arjun Singh, leader of a breakaway Congress faction. The three ministers resigned on Wednesday.

The death yesterday of N. T. Rama Rao, one of the country's most flamboyant politicians and a former maverick, took another prominent figure of the political map, and introduced additional uncertainty among contending parties.

His populist home state of Andhra Pradesh is seen as crucial to the regional and leftwing alliances that represent India's third political force after the ruling Congress (I) party and the BJP. All the main national parties, except for the communists, have been implicated in the corruption scandal, and the death of NTR, as he was universally known, deprives

the regional parties of an important figurehead.

"Just when the nation is wondering about its choicelessness on the eve of a general election, it has been rudely shocked into a realisation of the enormity of its choicelessness," said the Hindustan Times.

The charges are also expected to scotch moves to reunite the Congress by bringing Mr Singh and other dissidents back to the main party fold, relieving the prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, of a renewed challenge from within his party.

In his last public act, NTR, who was deposed as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh by his son-in-law last August, accused Mr Rao on Wednesday of manipulating the timing of the scandal revelations to inflict maximum damage on his political opponents.

The corruption first came to light four years ago with the arrest of Kashmiri militants. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) began to look at the involvement of politicians after a petition from two journalists.

Mr Rao, the direct overseer of the CBI, took a personal interest in the unfolding of the scandal late last year. India news reports said yesterday he blocked the prosecution of eight more politicians whom the federal police agency had sought to charge.

Mr Rao has faced a tide of criticism for his unwillingness to act against corruption, which the BJP adopted as its main plank in its election platform. His decision to sanction the CBI prosecutions seems especially curious after his inaction last month over criticism of Sukh Ram, the communications minister. He was accused of favouring a company from his home state in the telecom privatisation.

The scandal centres on money paid by the Jain family of industrialists for government contracts and political favours, and laundered through black market foreign currency transactions.

But the political realignments that are expected to follow the revelations have been put on hold by NTR's death. Mr Rao joined tens of thousands of mourners at his lying-in-state at a cricket stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

Egypt's quiet militant protests his innocence

Ian Black meets an exile who is high on Cairo's list of most wanted terrorists

YASSER al-Sirri is an unlikely assassin. Slipping Cokes in the lobby of a London hotel, the balding, bearded Egyptian Islamist has a mild manner that belies the furious complaints from Cairo that Britain is harbouring a leader of the infamous Jihad movement.

As Muslim fundamentalists ponder the fate of the Saudi Arabian dissident, Mohammed al-Mas'ari — now appealing against his deportation to the Caribbean island of Dominica — Mr Sirri, sentenced to death for trying to kill the Egyptian prime minister, insists he is innocent and abides by British law.

Like Mr Mas'ari, the Egyptian militant has applied for asylum in this country, but unlike him has heard nothing substantial from the Home Office since arriving in 1994.

Poor, over-populated Egypt does not have the same clout as Saudi Arabia with its lucrative contracts for British arms manufacturers. On the other hand, no one has accused Mr Mas'ari of murder or involvement in terrorism.

Mr Sirri makes no secret of his views: "The whole Egyptian people is in prison and we want them to small freedom," he said in his first interview with a British newspaper.

"There has to be rule by sharia [Koranic law] and the people must decide. If they can't do that through elections, they must obviously revolt against the government. As for my presence in Britain, I came here in good faith and it is incumbent on me not to break its laws."

Mr Sirri hotly denies any link with the Jihad (Holy War) organisation, whose members assassinated Anwar Sadat in 1981 and which claimed responsibility last November for blowing up the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad, as well as for a series of murders in Egypt. "Do I look like a revolutionary?" he asks with a smile.

Egypt insists he is one of six Jihad leaders operating from abroad. Foreign Office diplomats have heard repeated complaints in Cairo and London but have received no hard evidence of his guilt.

Born in Suez in 1962, Mr Sirri admits a long history of trouble with the authorities, peaking with the death sentence imposed in absentia by a military court, for his alleged role in the bombing of the motorcade of the prime minister, Ataf Sidki, in November 1983. Mr Sidki survived but is vague about how innocence is defined. He claims not to know other Jihad members, including Ayman Zawahiri, the organisation's Swiss-based leader.

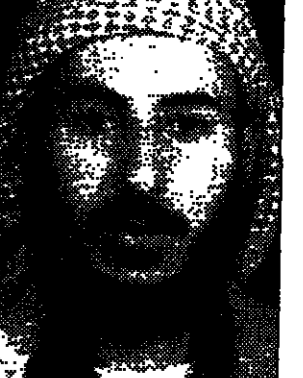
But Jihad statements started appearing on the fax machine of a London-based news organisation shortly after Mr Sirri was given the number.

"The Egyptian authorities are trying to say that they've solved the problem of terrorism inside the country, so now they're talking about people abroad," he says.

Additional reporting by Nicolas Potham.

Five Jihad activists were charged for that crime but Mr Sirri insists he was in Sudan when it happened. He was also in detention in Britain under the immigration laws in 1994 — for eight months until he was freed on bail — at a time he was named as meeting a Muslim Brotherhood activist in London, a charge that surfaced in a second trial last year where he was jailed for 15 years, again in absentia.

Mr Sirri says he opposes violence against innocent



There has to be rule by sharia and the people must decide. If they can't do that through elections, they must obviously revolt against the government' Yasser al-Sirri

people but is vague about how innocence is defined. He claims not to know other Jihad members, including Ayman Zawahiri, the organisation's Swiss-based leader.

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Additional reporting by Nicolas Potham.

News in brief

Kwasniewski threatens poll

Poland's president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, issued a veiled threat on a visit to Brussels yesterday to call new general elections if the country's political stability was threatened by proliferating allegations that the ruling Democratic Left Alliance (formerly the communists) was riddled with people spying for Russia, writes John Palmer in Brussels.

Refugees riot

Malaysian police yesterday fired teargas at Vietnamese boatpeople housed in a refugee camp outside Kuala Lumpur after the inmates had set fire to two of their barracks, witnesses said. — Reuter.

Generals arrested

Three retired South Korean army generals were arrested yesterday over the 1980 Kwangju massacre of pro-democracy protesters. — Reuter.

Rwandans flee

About 15,000 Rwandan refugees fled towards Burundi's border with Tanzania yesterday after fighting in north-east Burundi forced the closure of their camp. — Reuter.

Claim for funds

Licio Gelli, aged 76, the convicted former head of Italy's P3 Masonic lodge who is appealing against a 17-year jail term, yesterday sought control of \$28 million in Swiss banks frozen since he was arrested in 1982. — AP.

In the world before the 19th century people did not have jobs, they did jobs. In pre-industrial Britain, jobs weren't provided by an employer, they were things that needed to be done in a certain time at a certain place. Now the world is beginning to turn full-circle.

A growing life of crime

Mr Howard must know prison isn't the answer

EVERY silver lining ends in a black cloud — particularly with crime. Four months ago there was a full-blown press conference at the Home Office to mark the second successive annual fall in official recorded crime. Four months on a new report from the Home Office was released without fanfares yesterday with a much more ominous message: the possible emergence of a lifetime criminal class beyond a traditional hardline core. Produced by the Home Office research department, the report reaches the astonishing conclusion that many young men are no longer growing out of crime even by their mid-20s. Indeed, unlike officially recorded convictions, which show criminality among males dropping steeply after the age of 18, the new survey shows criminal activity continuing to rise through to 25. The survey of 2,500 young people was confined within the 14 to 25 age group in the belief that it would embrace their entire criminal careers. Instead, the young people reported an ever-rising participation rate right up to the cut-off point beginning at 17 per cent for 14 to 17-year-olds and rising to 27 per cent for 22 to 25-year-olds.

Girls still conform to old patterns. They grow out of crime. Although between 14 and 17 they are now nearly as likely as boys to be involved in offending, by their early 20s their rate of offending is five times lower than their juvenile rate. The traditional transition from immature adolescent to mature adult (leaving school, leaving home, becoming economically independent, forming partnerships, creating new families) corresponds with an end to criminality for most women. But for males, the pattern is quite different. Firstly, they are less likely to leave home, enter stable relationships, form new families and become economically independent. More serious still, even when this transition is achieved, men

are much less likely to grow out of crime. The researchers suggest one reason why this trend has not been picked up by official statistics could be a tendency for males to resort to less risky and harder-to-detect crimes.

The report should be sounding alarm bells in Whitehall. This is the first-ever official study of youth crime based on interviews. It provides a much more accurate picture than official statistics which cannot include the huge number of unreported or unrecorded crimes. It makes complete fools of the succession of ministers who have denied a link between crime and unemployment. Michael Howard may wish to avert his eyes from the hundreds of thousands of young men without work but his own researchers show how short-sighted this approach has become. It is just four years since a bold Metropolitan police officer exposed the nakedness of the current crop of home secretaries. Unlike the academics and their caveats, Commander David Stevens was blunt and truthful: the central reason for crime was "the quality of our life... social and economic malaise... a definite link between social conditions and crime figures".

Mr Howard's researchers agree. Commandably, there is a chapter at the end setting out what works. Nowhere is there anything as simplistic as prison. They concentrate on prevention rightly supporting programmes which might make Michael Howard choke: more support for families, more preparation for parenthood classes, improving parental supervision, reducing truancy and school exclusion, more school-parent contracts. Once upon a time a Tory home secretary would have agreed. Tories were the party of the family. Families were complex. Now it's easier to chant cheap mantras: prison works. It doesn't as his researchers demonstrate.

Calling Saddam Hussein's bluff

We don't know if his food-for-oil move is real so let's test him

WITH NO end in sight to the UN sanctions regime against Iraq, Baghdad says it is prepared to discuss the food-for-oil deal which has long been on offer from the UN as a way of relieving the malnutrition and ill-health caused by the trade embargo. But is Saddam Hussein under enough domestic pressure to be genuinely interested in picking up a UN proposal with which he has been playing political acrobatics since 1992? Or is this another one of Saddam Hussein's defiant teasers aimed at reminding the international community that five years after the Gulf war, he is still calling the tune in Baghdad? Where Saddam is concerned, there is always a risk of miscalculation. Look no further than this week's confessions from President Bush and General Norman Schwarzkopf that they had grossly underestimated the Iraqi leader's staying power, and had been quite wrong to assume that he would fall within months of Iraq's eviction from Kuwait. It might be similarly misleading to think that the fall-out from Iraq's acute food shortages has become so politically dangerous to Saddam that he is being driven to do a deal with the UN which he has consistently condemned as "an affront to Iraq's sovereignty".

Under the UN proposal Iraq would be permitted to sell a limited amount of oil with two thirds of the proceeds used to buy food and medicines, with the rest paid into a reparations fund for Kuwait and applied to defray the costs of the UN special commission overseeing the

destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The money would be placed in a UN escrow fund. This proposal was first made in a 1992 Security Council resolution and was renewed last April on improved terms in resolution 986. According to the current resolution, Iraq could sell \$2 billion of oil over a six-month period, with the door left open to the Security Council to renew the process for further periods of six months. Until now, intermittent negotiations aimed at securing Iraq's agreement have always broken down. Now, for the first time, Baghdad has seized the initiative "to start a dialogue without preconditions." Hard though it is to reconcile it with such a concession, Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz has also told Dr Boutros-Ghali that Iraq still objects to resolution 986 as interference in the country's internal affairs. It is certainly worth probing Saddam's intentions. Indeed the Security Council should allow the UN Secretary-General to have some flexibility in his talks with the Iraqis. It would be wrong to insist on a take-it-or-leave-it attitude on resolution 986. Allowance should be made for some face-saving concessions. There is a mass of evidence from international bodies that UN sanctions have had a disastrous effect on the well-being of Iraq's people. It is vital that the oil-for-food deal is given a serious chance. Saddam's bluff, if it is only that, should be called. And if he is serious, then all the more reason to be constructive.

Don't knock the living daylight

The Butterfill bill is too important to be talked into oblivion

THIS morning MPs will debate whether Britain should have an extra hour of daylight during winter evenings at the expense of darker mornings. John Butterfill's Bill is important and has the potential to enrich the lives of many people. The Prime Minister has been persuaded to obstruct it to avoid a possible political backlash in Scotland. MPs opposing the measure will try to talk it out so it disappears without trace. Supporters need 100 votes to close debate and force a vote. The "payroll vote" of well over 100 ministers and others have been told to abstain on the closure vote so the Bill's success depends on Mr Butterfill rustling up 100 MPs on a dull Friday in winter.

It is absurd for a measure like this to depend on parliamentary high links rather than a free vote. Research by independent bodies like the Policy Studies Institute and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents indi-

cates that an extra hour of daylight would not only improve the quality of life, save energy, keep us in step with Europe and boost tourism, but would result in a significant net reduction in accidents (increases in the morning being more than offset by reductions at night). A strong, but not overwhelming, Scottish lobby strongly opposes the measure even though research shows that the further north you go the greater the net reduction in accidents. The only research disputing these findings was published this week by De Montfort University on the eve of the debate and nearly 10 years after the campaign started. If there is new evidence then the place to discuss it is during the committee stage when amendments can be taken. Until then MPs should ensure that an important bill capable of enriching the lives of ordinary people is not killed by time and talked into oblivion.



Letters to the Editor

On life in the pen

ALTHOUGH the Home Office now seems prepared to modify the barbaric practice of keeping pregnant women shackled until they actually go into labour, Bruno Bettelheim describes one of the ways in which Nazi concentration-camp guards psychologically coerced their captives into submission: deliberately controlling their freedom in regard to the elimination of bodily wastes. Have standards of decency, never mind humanity, fallen so low in Britain in 1996?

(Prof) Terence Morris, 23 Eastgate Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8EB.

HAVE, over my six years and seven months in prison, seen a large rise in the use of class A drugs in Stockton and Ashwell, and many of my friends being released with heroin habits. After my own cousin's death from a heroin overdose (aged 23), I decided to take a stand, and handed in to staff here at Stockton and Ashwell seven syringes, two bottles of testosterone, ecstasy tablets, heroin and cannabis to the value of about £500. Now I find myself in solitary confinement, as I'm told by the governor at Ashwell that I have been rocking the boat and upsetting prisoners.

George Rowlett, HM Prison Stockton, Leics LE15 7RD.

Just who is bypassing the truth at Newbury?

WHEN are the opponents of the Newbury bypass going to have the courage to admit that the road will bring huge environmental benefits to Newbury? No one denies that the road will damage the countryside to the west of the town. The issue is one of environmental balance. Do the benefits outweigh the disadvantages?

The present road, running through the middle of our lovely old market town, carries more than 50,000 vehicles a day including 10,000 HGVs. These produce a huge and unnecessary amount of air pollution, as the notorious Newbury bottleneck frequently jams them solid.

The arguments against the bypass have been consistently exaggerated. For example, the modern design of the bridges over the Lambourn and the Kennet will reduce run-off into those SSSIs. Currently that traffic crosses the SSSIs on older, less effectively designed, bridges. By denying that there will be any environmental benefits, the opponents of the bypass simply lose credibility. This credibil-

Arthur, you didn't ask us

ARTHUR SCARGILL is right when he points to the frustration of thousands of people disenfranchised by New Labour and by our present electoral system (We're moving home, January 15). The problem is that the process by which he has founded the SLP has disenfranchised many future supporters of a party of the radical left.

On the Continent, effective parties to the left of social democratic parties — like the Democratic Left in Spain or the Green Left in Holland — have been the result of years of careful, democratic negotiation and joint work between a range of Socialist, Communist, Trotskyist, left green and left nationalist organisations. Believe it or not it can be done!

By contrast, the Socialist Labour Party has been set up in two months between the proposal and the agreement on the constitution, by a small group of people without any effort to discuss or negotiate with sympathetic political or campaigning organisations, including many in the Labour Party, over timing, strategy and structure. It is a botched beginning to a sound idea.

The additional difficulty which the left faces in Britain, of a first-past-the-post electoral system, would seem to imply the need to be even more careful to ensure that the timing is right for maximum support and for inclusive alliances to be built. Instead, the SLP is reproducing all the institutional sectarianism of Labour, Old and New.

The rest of the left should

not respond to it in kind, however. Rather, we should learn from its reckless mistake and, where it gets off the ground, work with it on the issues of proportional representation, shorter working hours, decent pensions and democratic public ownership, on which Scargill is at his best.

Editor, Red Pepper, 3 Gunthorpe Street, London E1 7RQ.

KEN LIVINGSTONE'S bizarre prognosis for the future of the next Labour government (The Party's not over, January 18) files in the face of all we know about Tony Blair's new Labour Party. But leaving that aside, I must comment on what he says about me and the forthcoming book I am writing with Roger Liddle, The Blair Revolution. He claims that it will contain "thinking against the welfare state" and talk of a "merger with the Liberal Democrats". He presumably bases this nonsense on a mixture of his crystal ball and inaccurate press speculation that I have already made clear is fallacious.

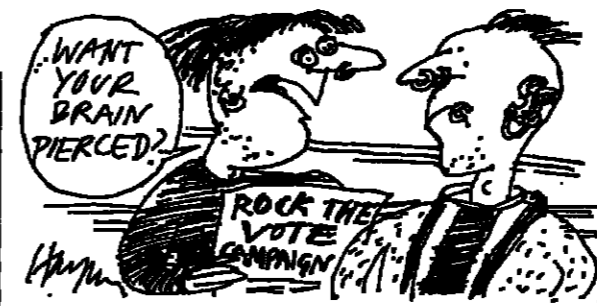
I am not sure if he will be relieved or disappointed by what the book actually contains but hope that he will find something in its outline of Labour's plans for economic, social and political renewal with which he can agree. It would make a pleasant change.

Peter Mandelson MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Rock 'n' poll

THAT it has taken until now for a campaign such as Rock the Vote (Rocking the young into vote awareness, January 15) to be launched in the UK shows how little is known about the young electorate. Mainstream political parties do very little to encourage the young electorate to participate. Yet their votes are profoundly important and young people should be encouraged to understand and contribute to politics.

With so much disarray over controversial subjects such as Europe, schools have difficulty in deciding what to teach and how to teach it. Thus it is left to campaigns such as Rock the Vote to raise awareness. Political parties must change their opinion of young people. They must be prepared to listen to the needs, and understand the



issues, which concern the young electorate. They must make policies which address a representative cross-section of the population, from the elderly to the young. And it must be done now, or campaigns such as Rock the Vote will do nothing but reveal the inadequacies of politics.

This campaign must remain politically neutral because making the choice between political parties is difficult, especially when there

are essentially no policies directed at the young electorate. Richard Tate (19), 5 Bainton Road, Tipton, Nr Driffield, East York YO25 9LF.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. We may edit them for clarity and concision.

YOUR assertion (Leader, January 15) that the left in the Labour Party will reassert itself, if and when a Blair government embarks on policies which are strongly opposed within the unions, exhibits a poor grasp of the history of the party in government this century. All such previous attempts have collapsed when confronted by the rallying call of "Don't rock the boat" — a mentality that Blair has now fine-tuned into a complete ideology.

M A Woodgate, 8 Foxhunter Walk, Billericay, Essex CM11 1ED.

Economical with the service

SHARE the apprehensions of Lord Bancroft (An ethos up for sale, December 20) on the implications of the Government's decision to privatise its Recruitment and Assessment Services (RAS).

The RAS (like their precursors) are sometimes accused of being slow-moving and bureaucratic. If a successor organisation can carry out the same tasks more responsively and effectively, that is to be welcomed, though I am not convinced that privatisation is a necessary condition for achieving it. A privatised RAS will no doubt be freer to compete for non-governmental business and earn a little money in the process. My fear is that these potential benefits may be outweighed by the potential risks.

In so far as the privatised RAS are carrying out services for government, it is of the utmost importance that they continue to carry them out with the maintenance of the integrity and probity of the public service as their primary duty. We pride ourselves on maintaining the traditional virtues of integrity, probity, political impartiality and freedom from corruption of our Civil Service. Recruitment by open competition on merit alone, supervised by an independent body protected from political or any other interference, is one of the foundations on which that tradition is built, and one of the guarantees of its preservation.

We are so used to the tradition that we tend to take it for granted, and think of it as an eternal and invariable verity, *monumentum aere perennius*. It is not: it is something that our forebears had to strive to achieve and we have constantly to tend it if we want to maintain it. It is a living, vulnerable plant not immune from damage; and, if it were damaged, even inadvertently, it could take years — a generation — to restore it.

The working of the RAS needs to be managed with that consideration — not profit — primarily in mind. Maintaining what Lord Bancroft has described as the public-service ethos must be the first of the duties for which those responsible for the RAS are held accountable. If we cannot be confident that this will be preserved in a privatised RAS, then it would be better not to privatise the RAS at all.

Lord Armstrong, (Head of the Home Civil Service 1993-97), House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Due to the warm weather we enjoyed last summer, bird colonies on the Farne Islands off our North-east coast enjoyed an exceptionally good breeding season. The head warden, John Walton, is busy during the weeks early in the new year interviewing candidates for the 1996 seasonal warden jobs — five on the Inner Farne and four on the Brownsman. All men, most of whom will have already had experience of work in conservation. "You have to be committed to work in comparative isolation for eight months," John told me. "But annually we get nearly 200 applicants. I shall spend the next month sorting them out. One of the changes I have seen during the last few years is that 80 per cent of the wardens are likely to be vegetarians." The St John Ambulance Brigade gives them first-aid training — with thousands of sunning visitors on these National Trust islands, the men in charge have to be prepared for every eventuality. The last seal pups

arrived in December and before the savage snowstorms, which swept our coast a few weeks ago. Seals choose considerable variation in breeding sites and this leads to differences in the behaviour of calves. Sites include rocks, beaches of varying formation and extent and vegetation-covered areas, usually at some distance from the sea. The safest sites are those where calves are born high above the water mark or where they can move out of reach of the waves.

Young seals do seem to adapt themselves to their surroundings, and those on the dangerous sites usually start to swim in the sea with mother at an early age. Most of the births on the beaches take place on an ebbing tide with some newborns well down on the seaweed. As the sea comes in, the pups struggle away from the water over the rocks and within a day or two these vulnerable youngsters will mostly have travelled well over the high water mark.

VERONICA HEATH

سكنا من الامل

Diary Matthew Norman

WHAT ails my old friend Andrew Morton? The world speaks of little but royalty, and yet from him there is barely a squeak. The silence is easily explained: not satisfied with his reputation as one of the greatest royal watchers in the Daily Star's history, he wants, bless his heart, to be taken seriously. To this end, he is working on a biography of Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi. First the royal yacht, then Diana, now a dictator with one of the most criticised human-rights records in the world... perhaps understanding the cynical African press believes that Moi has personally appointed Andrew as his biographer. When I call Andrew to discuss it, the answer is direct: "media enquiries (those ghastly backs, plugging the poor fellow all the time) to Lizzy at his publishers, Michael O'Mara. Lizzy promises that the book will be "an objective account", and that the idea for the book was not Moi's but the publisher's. But why would a publisher with an urge for a Moi biography see Andrew as the obvious man to write it? "I have no idea," says Lizzy, whose company, she says, does not pay large advances. Meanwhile, Andrew keeps popping off to Kenya for research, presumably funding the trips himself and treating the entire project as a loss-leader. And all this, just for a tiny sprinkling of gravitas? It's amazing.

MEANWHILE, there are already signs that Andrew's new seriousness is affecting the royal-reporter chums he left behind. Harry Arnold's analysis of post-structural feminist expression in the sub-Saharan novel has been refused by Granta, but the journal (under new editor Brian Hitchen) has taken Ross Benson's "At home with..." feature on Idi Amin's gracious Saudi Arabian house: it is called "Idi in exile: a Moses for our times". As for James Whitaker, he is on a year's sabbatical from the Mirror to research "Poi Pot: the tears, the heartache, the truth behind the mask".

ALAS, my friend Lord Wynn of Eglington has been ill-treated by the News of the World, which has demoted his elegant column to a fortnightly slot. Although shifting the old goat has been the holy grail for recent NoW editors, none succeeded until Phil Hall. When Mr Hall nervously raised the subject over lunch, Woody became irate. He would, he blustered, raise the matter with his friend Rupert Murdoch personally. "Er, actually, I've already talked to him about it," said Mr Hall. Deflated, Woody withdrew himself within his huge bow tie, and began to jabber piteously. Even though he will pick up the same £120,000 for half the work, it brings a tear to the eye.

THE first issue of Going For Green magazine ("Making a world of difference together") has arrived, and splendid it looks too. On the bottom of the front page, for example, is a 14-point "green code" advising how to be kind to the environment. Number three urges: "Save energy - switch off lights and appliances when not in use, and use low-energy bulbs." Further up the page, meanwhile, the organisation's Manchester headquarters, Churchgate House, looks magnificent, glowing in the pitch black of night like Harrods at Christmas time.

WHAT heavy weight hit-ographer Andrew Morton goes to Natrobi next week, and I advise him not to bother hiring a car. Vehicle thefts are so frequent that locals call the city "Natrobirobbery". It seems that high-ranking government officials may be involved. One pedestrian was surprised last week, reports Africa Analysis, to see his stolen car driving past in the motorcade of a leading politician.

SOARING above the usual "You don't have to be mad..." standard of libelious pub signs is this effort, reported by a reader who saw it in a Bangkok bar: "We won't take cheque. It bounces, we get angry. Better you get angry." Charmingly put.



With friends in the North like these

Commentary Peter Preston

MY OLDEST friend in the North was called David Logan. He would have been 126 this year. He was 92 when I got to know him: still a Labour MP after 33 years in the House, still living up the terrace stairs at 362 Scotland Road, Liverpool (which Peter Flannery presumably designated Bleasdale/Scouse territory as he headed off for TV Goodland).

I remember long front-parlour evenings with Logan, a wizened scrap of a man, taking notes and trying to make his life the story of the Twentieth Century Labour Party, a romantic epic of struggle and success. It was the prime moment for writing: 1963, with Harold Wilson beginning to turn white hot and a pulsation of change. Dave, from his front window amongst the

thrang of pawnbroker shops, from his long machine career in Mersey politics, from his three backbench decades at Westminster, had had a unique seat in the stalls ever then. Half-a-mile away at City Hall, John Braddock and Bessie - two blocks of the old chip - were the last of the bosses clinging to power whilst a young Eric Heffer hopped up and down; and the first stirrings of Liverpool Liberalism - middle-class populists for a cleaner government - were already eroding working-class support down some of the less mean streets.

It was juicy. It was on the move. It was the nearest thing to Boston (Mass) that Britain had to offer - unless you included the Grozny that was Alderman Hugh Platt's Birkenhead just across a murky Mersey. And Logan had seen it all. What a tale he might tell - except that he didn't. He had his memory. He still had his seat in Parliament. But there wasn't an ounce of romance to a relentlessly matter-of-fact rendition of meetings attended and decisions reached. He had never thought of himself as a player

on any kind of political stage. He went here and there, did this and that; and habitually came back to Scotland Road where his constituents queued for interview. Kindly, shrewd, diligent: without a silver of vaunting emotion. I remembered David Logan for the first time in decades this week as Peter Flannery and his fictional friends from the other side of the North began their own epic journey across nine Monday nights. Were they remotely real, Nicky and Georgie and Tosker and Mary? Or were they secondhand cyphers wearing secondhand clothes - Love On The Dole meets John Braddock for Kind Of Loving: shades of a departed world recreated from plays, books and movies rather than any experienced semblance of real life? Open the legs, lass, and that'll be pregnant by next Monday.

My friends from the other side of the North knew all about hard times, and could certainly rouse fleeting spasms of rhetorical solidarity (occasionally turning to outright sentimentality). They could be shaken and stirred. Graham Shankland's concrete masterpiece for central

Liverpool stirred them in the conception, and shook them in the execution. They could be crudely cynical. But they were not, ever, romantics - nor suitable subjects for romanticisation. John Braddock, thin hair scraped across great square head, was brutally practical. He knew his constituents. He knew about leadership. He just bullied on with the job.

The ruling municipal socialists of the North 30 years ago were battered pragmatists

day recruits to the banner of the ex-Viscount Stansgate - they were the real romantics. The ruling municipal socialists of the North 30 years ago, by contrast, were battered pragmatists. They built and ran machines. They identified demands - like homes for the homeless - and satisfied them on the necessary cheap, bandying the figures of houses constructed like unemployment figures today. Corruption came, as it will al-

ways come, mostly as a natural product of long and unchallenged rule. But idealism as we now write about it - the vision thing - was an alien concept imported by middle-class interlopers who had heard John Kennedy's upper-class song from across the Atlantic and had themselves responded, deeming that this was now the way politics had to be conducted. Harold Wilson from Huyton, a pudgy pipe-smoker in a waistcoat, got the message early and started deeming at the double.

In one sense this is all a very long time ago. Drinka Pinta Milka Day, it said on one of Flannery's roadside TV poster sights - and the slogan seemed prehistoric. But in another sense it is all too close for period comfort. The stars of the sixties have barely faded into their graves. The Likely Lads they watched on telly after a council cactus are still on screen. Peter Cushing and Rita Tushingham, straight from 1966, are on a channel near you tonight.

If Our Friends In The North have a story to tell these coming weeks, I think it will only be a story - an attempt to turn work in progress into an epic with a supposed finale, a structured tale of romantic failure and disillusion. That's not the story the real friends in the North would recognise. They built things and knocked things down. Today they'd be knocking down the things they built. They wouldn't begin to understand stakeholder economics, but nor would they give Arthur Scargill the time of day. Get on with it lad. Get bloody weaving. And turn that stupid TV off.

Repositioning Sarah in the royal market



Bel Littlejohn

YOU KNOW, there's an awful lot of people in pain out there in this huge, frightening world of ours, and it's up to each and every one of us to do something about it. This was the slogan I chose way back in 1989, when I set up my public relations company, Bel Mond plc. And it's a slogan that's as relevant today in the mid-90s as it was in the late-80s. Perhaps more so.

Obviously, we at Bel Mond plc continue to do our bit for the poor. As recently as 1992, on behalf of and in conjunction with Anita Roddick, we flew 2½ tons of Peach, Juniper and White Chocolate Neck Scrub and Shower Gel to the former Yugoslavia. But we also go out of our way to act for clients who may be experiencing grave hardship in the glare of the world's media. The rich and famous can suffer pain too, you know. Just because you're featured in Hello! magazine - for which publication, incidentally, I have a lot of respect - doesn't mean you're not hurting deep down inside.

This is where good public relations comes in. Bel Mond plc encourages the media to view our clients in a better light. I have written before about the assistance we have given the Princess of Wales in establishing herself as a feminist icon. We have similarly transformed the public perception of many of my other clients, lending a more positive image to, among others, the water companies, Paula Yates, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Hillary Clinton, David Montgomery, the Newbury bypass, Michael Winner and Sizewell C power station. And I'm glad to have done the same over the course of this past week on behalf of my long-term client - and close personal friend - the Duchess of York.

As you can tell, I'm now widely known that Sarah contacted me shortly after her tragic separation from the Duke of York, with a view to improving public perception, vocalising her personal assets and re-establishing her name as a quality product in the highly competitive international royal marketplace. As soon as the contract between us had been negotiated, I immediately warmed to Sarah. "I see you as a strong woman, an independent woman, a woman who craves glamour and affection," I told her. "So we must get rid of your rather stuffy, frumpy, Duchessey image."

And, we at Bel Mond plc fixed up that she should greatly enhance her media image by appearing topless in a sun-soaked paradise in the arms of a new boyfriend, preferably an American.

As I reassured Sarah at the time ("Wipe away those tears, love"), those original toasting photographs made a huge impact on the world market, upgrading her status from royal frump to international jet-set celebrity and thus confirming her as a royal market-leader. We then set about capitalising on this sea-change in public perception by generating a suitable product to assist an upturn in large-scale revenue-creation. "I'm thinking a book, I'm thinking a children's book, children's book we can write in the morning and get drawn in the afternoon," I said. "Criket?" she replied. Then she furrowed her brow and whooped: "How about Grunge: the Manic Depressive? Not 'Cuddle the Bulimia'! Not 'Drugging the Mother's Hell'? No!" She was close to tears, and hurting dreadfully. "Oh, Bel, you'll have to help me!" And so Budgie The Helicopter was born. It was dictated by midday and illustrated by tea-time and the rest is publishing history, or would be if it were more historic.

After Budgie, I gave Sarah a complete fashion makeover. We decided that the Princess Di "sporty" look was for her, so she would turn up at boxing, gym, wearing a T-shirt with a cheery slogan: "Duchesses Do It On The Piste", lime-green Lycra pants and waders. "Whatever you do, love, always walk with your mouth wide open," I advised. "Cos that way you'll be projecting a 'mouth-wide-open' image. Believe me, the public will love it. I mean, just look at what it did for Donald Duck."

THEN taught Sarah how to keep herself in the public eye by spending at least three times her total income. "That way they'll adore the way you're a girl who's out for fun, fun, fun - and then they'll feel desperately sorry for you when the bubble bursts. The public loves a loser - that's our philosophy at Bel Mond," I explained.

As you can tell, I'm now widely known that Sarah contacted me shortly after her tragic separation from the Duke of York, with a view to improving public perception, vocalising her personal assets and re-establishing her name as a quality product in the highly competitive international royal marketplace. As soon as the contract between us had been negotiated, I immediately warmed to Sarah. "I see you as a strong woman, an independent woman, a woman who craves glamour and affection," I told her. "So we must get rid of your rather stuffy, frumpy, Duchessey image."



Publish and be damned

Maurice Drake believes the reduction of damages in the Elton John libel appeal may encourage newspapers to propagate lies for profit

THE DECISION of the Court of Appeal in the Elton John libel case last month will have far-reaching effects on the conduct of defamation cases. I warmly applaud the significant changes made to the way in which juries may be guided as to the sum they should award as damages. But the decision rectifies damages on several issues. Will it encourage newspapers to run stories they know are untrue because they calculate that they will gain more than they will have to pay if sued for libel? Should punitive damages be abolished? And should the assessment of damages - whether for compensation or punishment - be withdrawn from the jury and decided by the judge alone?

In the action by Elton John against the Sunday Mirror, the jury decided it was one of those rare cases in which the newspaper should be punished in addition to paying compensation for the injury it had done to the plaintiff's reputation. They awarded £75,000 as compensation, but a further £275,000 "exemplary" damages. Exemplary (in other words, punitive) damages may only be awarded where it is proved to the jury that the defendant (usually a newspaper proprietor) published the libel knowing it was untrue but calculating that the prospects of gain outweighed the prospects of loss they would incur if ordered to pay damages and the costs of a libel action. This coldly calculated decision must be proved clearly to

newspapers have made a calculated bet that they will on balance gain from publishing untrue material. I doubt whether a fine of £50,000 will be enough to deter any major tabloid newspaper from publishing as a "splendid story" a libel it believes will bring it profit. The test of punitive damages is that the material gain from publishing a known libel will outweigh the total costs that will result from a libel action. And there will not be a sufficient deterrent to publishing known falsehoods unless the punishment remains high. Punitive damages are only awarded when a jury is satisfied that some additional punishment and deterrent is required. So I would retain them.

A jury is an eminently suitable body to decide whether this additional punishment is required. But a strong case can be made out for damages - both for compensation and punishment - to be decided by the judge alone. I believe that the Elton John appeal may well lead to this.

Until that appeal, juries were given very little help on the sum they should award as compensation. Neither the judge nor the lawyers for either side were allowed to suggest an amount, nor even a bracket, however wide, within which the award should fall. The jury could not be told what had been awarded in previous cases - except for the few cases in which the Court of Appeal had quashed a jury award and substituted its own (judge-made) award. Nor could the jury be told of awards for personal injuries and invited to make an award for injury to reputation which bore comparison with compensation for personal injuries. All the judge could do was to urge the jury to be reasonable, and to bear in mind the value of the award they made by considering

what such a sum of money could buy. It was not surprising that without any really useful guidance some juries awarded compensation which even the successful plaintiff could not justify. In such cases the defendant appealed and the plaintiff had two alternatives. He could voluntarily agree a substantial reduction in the award (such as in the case of Graeme Souness: £100,000 was accepted in lieu of the jury's £750,000; or he could fight the appeal. But if the defendant won, the plaintiff would have to pay the costs of the appeal - which might entirely wipe out the reduced award. Escher Rantzen won £200,000 from the jury; but the Court of Appeal reduced this to £110,000. The costs of the appeal probably wiped this out.

ONE effect of the Elton John appeal is to change radically the way in which help may be given to the jury. In future, both counsel and the judge may suggest to the jury the sum they consider appropriate for damages. Furthermore, the jury will be told the level of damage awarded for personal injuries - and asked to ensure that their award for injury to the plaintiff's reputation bears comparison with such awards: eg about £25,000 for the loss of one eye, about £35,000 for loss of a leg, and ranging up to about £125,000 for quadriplegia resulting in total paralysis.

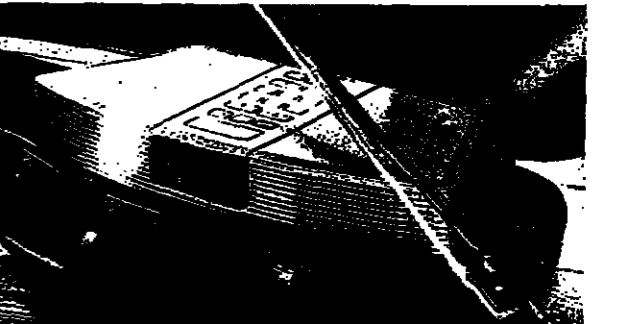
Consider what this means. Juries are to decide the sum to compensate the plaintiff for injury to reputation. But the judge will tell them the sum he thinks right, or at least the bracket within which their award should fall. If they go outside the bracket - certainly if they exceed it to any significant extent - the defendant will appeal. It would be a brave (and probably foolish) plaintiff who would con-

test the appeal and risk the heavy costs. He will settle. The result will be that the judge's "suggestion" to the jury as to the award of damages will be decisive. So why leave the matter to the jury at all? Damages for personal injuries are assessed entirely by judges sitting alone, without a jury. So when the jury is told that its award for injury to reputation should bear comparison with awards for personal injury, it is being told to make sure that its award falls in line with awards made by judges alone.

Are judges competent to decide damages for libel? The answer is that in many cases they already do so. Complicated cases are regularly tried by judges without a jury (the long-running McDonald's case is a current example); and in such cases damages are assessed by the judge alone. And where the Court of Appeal decides that a jury have made a hopelessly wrong award, it is the judges (albeit three of them) who substitute their own award - as in the Elton John case.

I am a very enthusiastic supporter of trial by jury. I hope that juries will continue to decide whether a plaintiff deserves damages for injury to his reputation, and whether the publisher of a libel ought to be punished for seeking to make a profit out of publishing untruths. But experience shows that juries are not well suited to assess damages. I believe that the Elton John judgment is likely, ultimately, to relieve them of having to do so.

The Hon Sir Maurice Drake, as Britain's senior libel judge, presided over the original Elton John case against the Sunday Mirror, and others involving Gillian Taylor, Sonia Sutcliffe, Jason Donovan, Mona Bauwens, Teresa Gorman and Frank Warren. He was in charge of the libel list from 1990 until his retirement last June.



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Hearing really is believing. To addition the Wave radio in your own home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed, simply call us freephone and discover why Sky News said: "This box of tricks... sounds like a full orchestra."

Form with fields for Name, Tel., Address, Postal code, and a section for sending the coupon to Bose at their address in Welwyn, Herts.

N T Rama Rao

Flawed star of India

NANDAMURI Taraka Rama Rao, or NTR as he was invariably known, was one of the most colourful of Indian politicians. He started working as a government clerk but soon moved into films in his home state of Andhra Pradesh, in Southern India. There was a flourishing film industry in the local language Telegu and with his commanding presence and deep, booming voice, he was a tremendous hit.

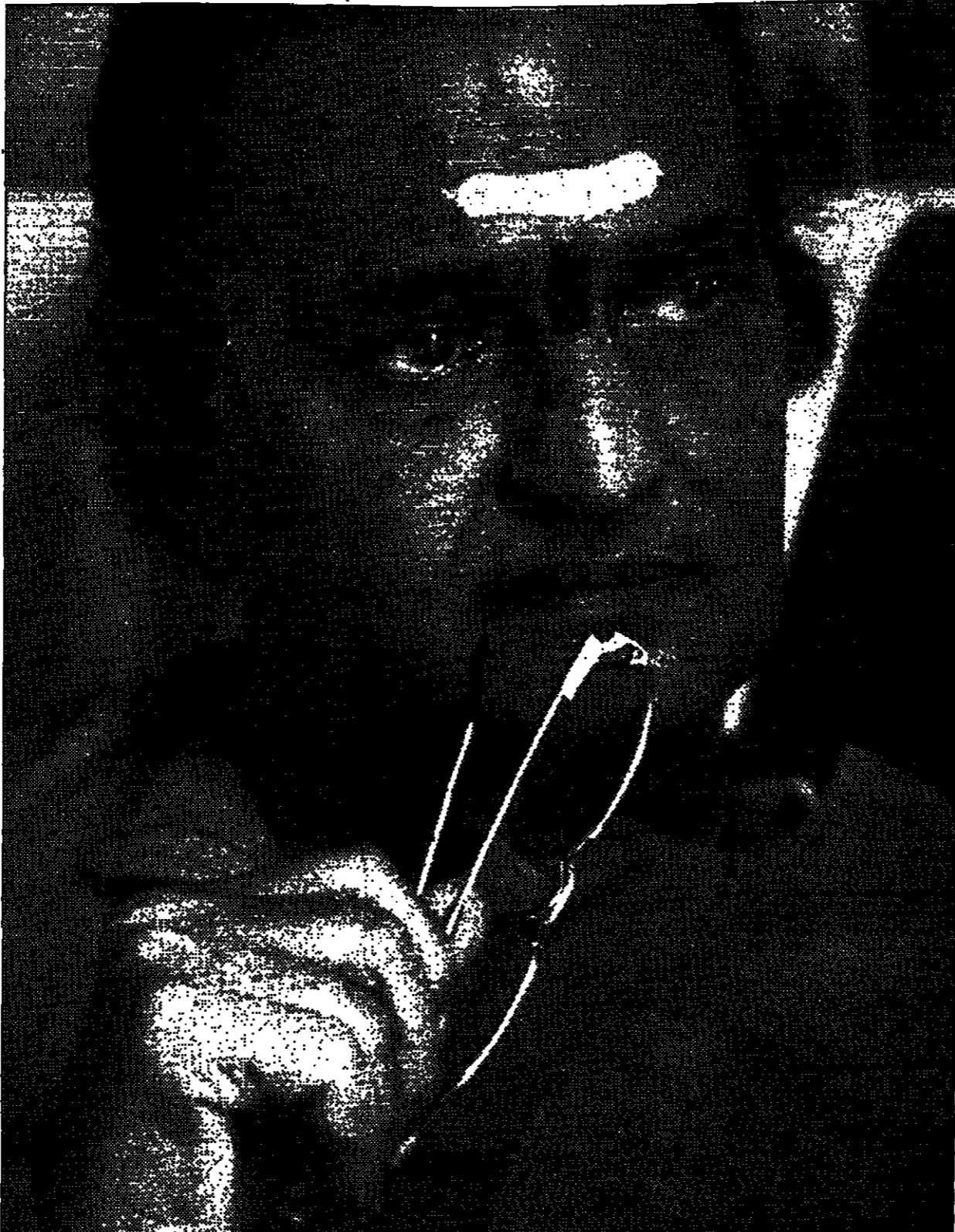
NTR, who has died after a heart attack, aged 72, starred in more than 300 films, often playing a member of the Hindu pantheon. His portrayals of Krishna, the hero of the two great Hindu epics, won him millions of fans. He dominated the screens of Andhra Pradesh, and was not even the greatest stars of the Bombay industry have been able to achieve.

He was only matched by the legendary MG Ramachandran in the neighbouring state of Tamilnad who used his fan club as the number one voters building a political career, and rose rapidly to become Chief Minister of the State. It was his phenomenal political success that gave NTR the idea of entering politics in his home state.

By good fortune Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, which used to regard Andhra Pradesh as one of its most secure bastions, was in deep trouble. Gandhi had shown scant respect for the puppet chief ministers she appointed. Her son Rajiv, then serving his apprenticeship in politics, had behaved in what was seen as an insulting manner to one of those ministers on a visit to the state capital of Hyderabad. The people of Andhra Pradesh felt they had been taken for granted, and were in a mood to look for an alternative.

Taking advantage of the favourable political climate NTR formed his own party called Telegu Desam, or the Land of the Telegus, in 1982. The following year in the election campaign for the Andhra Pradesh State Assembly he drove more than 50,000 miles visiting the remotest villages to ensure that all voters knew they now had an alternative to Gandhi's Congress party, an alternative which would make sure they were not taken for granted again.

He took advantage of the difficulty many Indian cinema-goers have in telling the difference between stars and their roles by dressing in saffron robes, as he had when playing Krishna on the screen. He would drive through towns and villages



N T Rama Rao... he owed his success to the voters' insatiable appetite for heroes

standing upright in a vehicle got up like one of the chariots of the Gods. It was as though Krishna himself had come down to earth, to offer himself as ruler of Andhra Pradesh.

The act was as astounding a hit as NTR's films had been. His party, which had only had one year to establish itself, swept to power. But Indira Gandhi was not amused. She sent Rajiv and a cousin, Arun Nehru, to force a schism in the Telegu Desam. In spite of NTR's enormous popularity this did not prove too difficult, loyalty not being the outstanding quality of Indian politicians. But when the governor of Andhra Pradesh acted on Rajiv's advice and dismissed NTR from the chief ministership, there was an uproar in the state. A month later the governor was forced to swear in NTR as chief minister.

Getting elected is one thing. Governing a state with a population of 70 million, one of the largest in India, is quite another. NTR with his autocratic, arbitrary, style was not a successful administrator. So in 1993 the voters decided their God had failed, and re-elected the Congress party.

But the party had not learned any lessons, and in the 1994 state assembly elections there was, as the Indian press said, "a second NTR wave". It wasn't just NTR's charisma which brought him back to power. He also made two very attractive promises — to provide the voters rice at a heavily subsidised price and to ban the sale of alcohol.

Prohibition, a plea made strongly to the women of Andhra Pradesh, a state with a very severe problem of alcohol abuse among men. But NTR's return to the chief ministership was no smoother than his original foray into government. His first wife by whom he had six sons and four daughters had died and he had married Lakshmi Parvati, a former actress much younger who had nursed him back to health after he suffered a series of heart attacks in 1993.

SHE started to interfere in government and members of NTR's family objected, fearing that the newcomer was building up a claim to the patriarch's political inheritance. They were taken for granted, and were in a mood to look for an alternative.

He took advantage of the difficulty many Indian cinema-goers have in telling the difference between stars and their roles by dressing in saffron robes, as he had when playing Krishna on the screen. He would drive through towns and villages

has proved to be beyond the power of almost all Indian chief ministers.

It is not possible to say who will be his political heir, but the continuing success of MG Ramachandran's party indicates that Telegu Desam could have a long-term future too, if the NTR family agrees on a successor — but that is a very big if.

Mark Tully

Lalit Mohan Joshi writes: Whatever NTR's success as a politician it was cinema that turned him into an icon — a legendary Telegu matinee idol.

For his debut, in L V Prasad's *Mana Desam* (1949), as a courageous police sub-inspector, he was paid approximately 525. In one scene the over-zealous young actor, talking straight in a police charge, literally bashed the extras out of the studio gates. When asked to explain he said he was just being realistic.

In Pallethuri Pilla (1950), a film about a corrupt politician, he totally forgotting the director's instructions, he playfully stopped a mighty bull.

Furious, the bull lifted him into the air, swung him round and threw him to the ground. He spent several weeks in hospital.

NTR took the lead in 330 Telegu films, playing Lord Krishna in 17 of them. In *Sri-madvirata Parvam* (1979), he performed the incredible feat of portraying five key roles Lord Krishna, Duryodhana, Keechaka, Arjuna and Brihanala. He teamed up with nearly 50 leading heroines, including the well known stars popular in Bollywood and hence throughout India. All his heroines vouched for his gentlemanly behaviour.

During some years of the sixties he made practically one film every month (he made 15 films in 1964). When he became chief minister in 1982 he said: "I am not a man to be attracted by money, power or anything. We are all actors in the hands of destiny. We have to just wait and see what destiny holds for us."

Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, Indian film star and politician, born May 29, 1923; died January 18, 1996

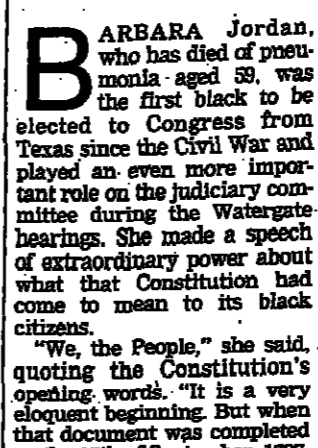
requests for advice. He became planning consultant for the United Nations and an adviser to Caribbean governments on urban development and planning law.

He was also interested in the arts and as a teenager co-founded Shipley Youth Theatre and as a film director Tony Richardson, a local chemist's son. He described himself wryly as a frustrated actor, but his work for the Bradford Playhouse and smaller theatres, both in free time and powerful networking, ensured that many shows went on.

Suddards meanwhile chaired the Yorkshire Building Society and helped to steer the early years of Bradford University, serving as pro-vice-chancellor and chairman of

Barbara Jordan

The people's black voice



Jordan... Nixon's accuser

BARBARA Jordan, who has died of pneumonia aged 59, was the first black to be elected to Congress from Texas since the Civil War and played an even more important role on the judiciary committee during the Watergate hearings. She made a speech of extraordinary power about what that Constitution had come to mean to its black citizens.

"We, the People," she said, quoting the Constitution's opening words. "It is very eloquent beginning. But when that document was completed on the 17th of September, 1787, I was not included in that 'We, the People'. I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision, I have finally been included in 'We, the people'."

It was a plain thought, plainly expressed, from a straightforward woman of great wisdom who had somehow put into words the ideals of the civil rights era. She put into the "sharpest focus the real issue: that Richard Nixon's attempt to steal an election through dirty tricks and abuse presidential power was polluting a constitution that was the common property of all Americans.

Ironically, Barbara Jordan got into politics through the Texas political machine of another less than scrupulous politician, Lyndon Johnson, as a volunteer licking envelopes for his 1960 presidential bid. When he lost the nomination, she stayed on to help LBJ become vice-president, organising a massive voter registration drive in Houston.

His patronage steered her to become the first black state senator in Texas history in 1966, and briefly got her appointed acting governor.

In 1972, Johnson's influence won her a coveted post on the judiciary committee. She aimed to increase black judges, and put more black students through law school, but as the body responsible for impeachment, the committee was quickly obsessed by Watergate.

Jordan was born in the Houston slums which she later represented in Congress. Her father was a Baptist minister who worked nights as a warehouse clerk to pay for her college education.

She went to the all-black Texas Southern University, where she led the debating team to national honours, and stunned the college world by holding the famed Harvard debating team to a draw. She graduated from Boston University law school in 1959, and went straight back to Houston where she started her law practice on her father's kitchen table in one of the poorest ghettos in the US.

"All blacks are militant in their guts," she said. "But that militancy is expressed in different ways." Her way was to sign up with the white-run

and broadly conservative Democratic establishment and the oil interests. She swallowed their maintenance of segregation because in the one-party state of Texas, it was the only political game in town. Her faith in Lyndon Johnson was fulfilled when he signed into law the civil rights acts of 1964 and 1965, ending segregation and outlawing discrimination.

She became a kind of mascot for the Democratic party, after declaring to the convention that nominated Jimmy Carter as the presidential candidate: "My presence here is one additional piece of evidence that the American dream need not forever be deferred." She was also a keynote speaker for Bill Clinton. Jordan served three brief terms in Congress, as her district became steadily less black and more Hispanic, before retiring to teach and to grapple with the multiple sclerosis that put her into a wheelchair. Never one to suffer fools gladly, she gave her graduating students a T-shirt that said "I survived Barbara Jordan". The best-known Texas journalist of the day, Molly Ivins, once noted that to interview her was "a bit like grilling God."

Jordan, who never married, leaves a vast family of friends and admirers, black and white.

Martin Walker

Barbara Christine Jordan, politician, born February 21, 1936; died January 17, 1996

Roger Suddards

Batting for Bradford

Roger Suddards, who has died aged 52 after a stroke, set a remarkable example of public service in any field he thought might benefit his native city of Bradford. A prosperous and conventional-looking solicitor, he was extraordinarily well-informed about the area's many different communities.

Raggle-tackle street campaigns benefited from his (usually discreet) advice, as much as a long succession of "Back Bradford" drives by the great and the good. He was

David Hockney's lawyer for years, and shared the artist's studio with his light-worm knowledge of past and contemporary culture.

After the terrible 1985 fire at Bradford City's football ground, his £4 million disaster appeal became a model of good practice in a difficult field. The trust he established made payments within a year, anonymously and without fuss, to more than 400 relatives of the disaster's victims.

He also brought a northern view to English Heritage, as

one of its 11 governing committees, and chaired the National Museum of Film, Photography and Television, helping to ensure that its move to Bradford — decided by some metropolitan — was a triumph.

Suddards, who was born in Bradford, greatly disliked his time at the boys' grammar school, which turned out ruthless meritocrats much as the local mills produced yarn and worsted cloth. He left in 1946 with no qualifications, and through nightschool, family



Suddards... discreet advice

encouragement and enterprise became head of a legal firm's Westminster branch by the age of 22. His speciality of planning law brought him early public service appointments as well as international

council. In 1993 he received an honorary doctorate. He was a former deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and was appointed CBE in 1987.

His ubiquity in Bradford could sometimes raise a sigh of "it's him again", but he knew the perils of the provincial Mr Big image and countered them with self-deprecation. His omnipresence was also a sign of the decline of the public service tradition; in earlier years, Bradford might have boasted a score or more of French benefactors.

Suddards leaves a wife, Liz, and two daughters.

Martin Walkwright

Roger W Suddards, solicitor, born June 5, 1930; died December 30, 1995

Birthdays

Julian Barnes, writer, 50; Nina Bayden, novelist, 71; Michael Crawford, actor, 54; Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 30; Phil Everly, rock singer, 57; Jackie Fleming, cartoonist, 41; Patricia Roddigan, head of policy and planning, BBC, 38; Richard Lester, film director, 64; David Newbigger, chairman, Council of the Missions to Seamen, 62; Nigel Nicolson, author and former MP, 78; Dolly Parton, country music singer, actress, 50; Sir Simon Rattle, conductor, 41; Mike Reid, actor, comedian, 51; Prof Andrew Samuels, psychoanalyst and writer, 47; Dennis Taylor, snooker player, 47.

Acknowledgments

ELITCHER, Joan Mary, the family of the late Joan Mary Elitcher would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends, neighbours and colleagues for their care and messages of sympathy during the last few weeks and their attendance at the service at Rotham Green Crematorium.

In Memoriam

GURTHAS, Jop. Died 19.11.1991. Remembered and loved.

Memorial Services

MEADE James Edward, a celebration of his life (1924-1995) of Mrs Janet Meade will be held on Saturday 20th January 1996 at the chapel of Trinity College Cambridge.

OSBORN, Lord. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lord Osborn, 1st Viscount of London, GBE, PC, FRCGS, will be held at St Dunstons Church, Fleet Street, London, on Saturday 20th January 1996 at 11.15am. For further information please contact the Assistant Secretary, Bank of England.

Write your announcement telephone 0171 266 1000.

Jackdaw



Rites and ritual

IT SEEMS that the coffins were ordered and the hangman and his three assistants flown in from the far north two days before the death sentences on Ken Saro-Wiwa and his fellow Ogoni activists... were confirmed by General Sani Abacha's Provisional Ruling Council... Two days later, at 9.30 in the morning, Friday 10 November, the Ogoni Nine, as they had come to be called, were taken under armed escort from the military camp they had been held in for the last 18 months to the regular prison in Port Harcourt. They were ushered into a

large cell which was empty save for a long wooden bench. They hadn't yet been told about their impending executions. Along with the rest of the world, they never imagined that the government would kill them with such indecent haste, and on the very day the Commonwealth was meeting in Auckland.

A few minutes later, an inner door opened and Ken was beckoned inside. He was immediately confronted with a priest, who proceeded to give him the last rites. Then he was asked whether he had a final request. He asked to see his wife, Hauwa. This was denied. He asked to see his 91-year-old father to give him his pipe and wallet. This, too, was denied. Then the sheriff read out the death-warrant, and the noose was tightened around his neck.

And then the story becomes bizarre. "It failed," a "source" was reported to have said. "Try and try the hangman did, but it simply failed to work." Apparently, the lever refused to release the trapdoor, although it had

been successfully tested on a dummy that very morning — for the last four days in fact. They decided to try it out on one of the others so they led Ken back to the cell and brought out John Kunjien. This time it worked. They brought Ken back again and again it failed. It wasn't until the fourth attempt that the lever slammed home, as it were, whereupon the military administrator of Rivers State, Lt-Col Dauda Komo, the same man who had publicly pronounced Ken and the others guilty even before the start of what passed for a trial; and who, now, at Ken's last hour, insisted on being personally present at the sickening spectacle, rushed down the makeshift scaffolding to make sure that he was well and truly in possession of his corpse.

The latest of Adekunle Fajana's Letters From Lagos, describing the circumstances of the execution of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine others by the Nigerian government in November last year. Published in Index On Censorship.

New era

- All households whose front door is more than, say, 20 yards from the nearest public footpath to be required to have a mailbox next to the path.
- Abolition of the "Widcombe" rules restricting the political activity of local government employees.
- Replacement of the competitive tendering system for brewers by franchises with a quality-based process of assessment.
- Beer pump clips to carry a list of ingredients and alcoholic strength.
- Introduction of three new bank holidays in the autumn and winter.
- The age of consent for gay men to be 16.
- Controls over the volume and price of wine sold by the glass.
- A beard tax to be placed on barbers and razor blade manufacturers.
- Compulsory deposits to encourage battery recycling.
- Opening up of health authority/trust meetings.
- Arsenal to be permanently

Tick tock

IT REALLY was an amazing time. For a brief moment, London was at the centre of the universe. But one took it for granted. One didn't go around feeling privileged, you just thought, "Hey, we deserve this," and the music! I remember the Beatles from when I still lived in Liverpool. I'd see them down the Cavern on a Friday night. They were just this little ama-

tear band but they had amazing energy and rawness... It's easy to forget how influential the Beatles were. They affected everything... Why do you think we've got those dopey haircuts, that mop top crap, in a Clockwork Orange? That's all related to the Beatles... There was a huge backlash (against the film), particularly in America. I remember being attacked at length in the New York

Men's Health

Does your spare tyre...
LOSE WEIGHT FAST!
LOSE FAT FAST!
LOSE INCHES FAST!
LOSE YOURSELF FAST!
LOSE YOURSELF FAST!
LOSE YOURSELF FAST!

Found sign... Men's Health

Times. It was ridiculous. I just said: "Where's your sense of humour? Lighten up!"... I can only put [the film's] withdrawal from the country] down to [director] Kubrick's paranoia. It's a watershed film and one that should be seen. The very brilliance of Anthony Burgess's story is that he didn't make it easy for us. Alex is an immoral character who has no compunction whatsoever about raping, beating and going on the rampage. But the point is, everybody, good or bad, should have the right to choose. That's what a Clockwork Orange is about — freedom of choice, not violence. Violence is just a by-product.

Actor Malcolm McDowell, who returns to television screens in Our Friends In The North next week, interviewed about the stars and all that by the New Musical Express.

poison me or block my stomach. What can I do?

A. LUCKILY, a pound coin! It doesn't lead from lead, although it appears to float on the currency markets as if it were brass and nickel, from which it is struck, are relatively harmless when swallowed. The coin you swallowed is almost certainly being passed ages ago. It probably reappeared within a day or two and you missed it. Blockage of the digestive tract is highly unlikely as nature has designed our gullets to accept smooth objects. If you are concerned, you might convince your doctor to perform an X-ray. If you don't pass a pound, please let me know if there is any change. Money matters in the problem pages of Men's Health.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London. ECRJ 3ER.

Dan Glaister

Power reg... Tomorrow:
Law
A
Chan... wins... for ba
B

سكنا من الامل

Friday January 19 1996

Power regulator hits back at US critic, page 12

Tomorrow: Body Shop shows its social credentials to the Guardian

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Leading City firm looks into £15m tycoon's copper dealings after complaints from Chilean government

Lawyers seek bribes proof

ALLEGATIONS that Winchester Commodities Group... the trading organisation headed by the £15 million-a-year tycoon, Charles Vincent... involved in the \$200 million Codelco copper scandal...

yesterday admitted that the SFA had investigated the company. But a spokesman said that "limited inquiries" were made in 1993... Investigation by Dan Atkinson, Patrick Donovan, Chris Barrie and Paul Murphy

\$200 million between 1990 and 1993 through speculative copper trading on the London Metal Exchange... The Chilean group has claimed its sacked chief futures trader, Juan Pablo Davila... Sueden, two years ago...

Notebook

Bank bides its time on inflation



Alex Brummer

THE reticence of the Bank of England, in the wake of Kenneth Clarke's decision to have a further quarter point of base rates... The slackness in the motor industry, symbolised by the Christmas new year lay-offs...

Chancellor wins kudos for base cut

Richard Thomas and Larry Elliott

BUSINESS leaders last night hailed the Chancellor's decision to cut base rates... after the latest figures for high street spending showed that the expected Christmas bonanza failed to materialise...

Unichem becomes biggest chemist

Outlook

Ian King

UNICHEM yesterday catapulted itself from third to first place among Britain's drugs retailers with a £514 million agreed bid for Lloyds Chemists... The deal is the latest in a series of takeovers in both the retailing and manufacturing sides of the drugs industry...



Unichem chief Jeff Harris (left) with finance director Geoff Cooper

Indeed, one of the more attractive features of Mr George's rule at the Bank is that he says what he believes... He has made no secret of the fact that he thinks Mr Clarke backed an outsider in May when he refused to follow the Bank's advice and raise rates...

OTH sides of town are in accord on certain basic economic points. The weakening of the European economies, together with the loss of some of the UK's devaluation benefits mean that the export market, on which the recovery of the 1990s has been based...

For the moment the Chancellor's luck is holding out as he seeks to underpin his tax cuts with the monetary easing which always had to come if the ambitious growth target was to be met...

Treasury shrugs off surprise rise in inflation

DEARER petrol and tobacco from the November Budget coupled with a jump in Christmas food and household goods prices helped nudge the annual rate of inflation up to 3.2 per cent last month...

gallon of four-star fell sharply after the leading filling station chains tried to win back market share from supermarkets... Overall, the RPI showed price rises last month were slightly higher than the 0.5 per cent increase in December 1994...

Mr Harris indicated yesterday that Unichem's existing retail brands will be sold at roughly similar prices nationwide... The agreement exists to protect small local chemists, particularly those in rural areas...

Ruling puts question mark over Brent's £200m claim

Dan Atkinson

SETTLEMENT of the £200 million claim by Brent Walker against Grand Metropolitan can be pushed into 1997 by a High Court ruling yesterday... The High Court agreed with GrandMet. This will affect some but not all of Brent Walker's £200 million claim.

Hopes fade of last-minute deal to save Fokker from bankruptcy

David Gow

FEARS about the pending bankruptcy of Fokker intensified last night when Ben van Schaik, its chairman, said chances were fading for a deal between Daimler-Benz, its German majority-owner, and the Dutch government to guarantee the aircraft maker's survival... His pessimistic comments also came just hours before

an expected - but unconfirmed - meeting between Daimler chairman Jürgen Schrenpp, Dutch premier Wim Kok and economics minister Hans Wijers over last-ditch efforts to persuade the government to pump more money into Fokker... Fokker's shares fell nearly 20 per cent on the Amsterdam bourse...

KipperWilliams FOKKER Aircraft TRAINED WITH BUDGE THE HELICOPTER

IBM marked a further stage in its comeback from the financial abyss when it yesterday reported a surprisingly robust 42 per cent jump in fourth-quarter profits to \$1.7 billion (\$1 billion)... IBM finished the year with its best profit since 1990, earning \$4.1 billion, compared with \$2.5 billion in 1994...

Table with columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate. Includes Australia 1.96, France 7.38, Italy 2.370, Singapore 2.12, etc.

Table with columns: Company, Profit, Change. Includes Apple Computer -\$69.0m (-136.7%), Computer Associates \$222.7m (+27.8%), etc.

Power attack 'offers false reading'



Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator (right), was in at the beginning of Britain's experiment with inflation-linked price caps. Despite widespread criticism for being too lenient on the industry and being forced to rewrite distribution price controls last year, he remains the system's most ardent defender. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

UK controls leave competition on grid

Yesterday US expert Gregory Palast accused weak British watchdogs of failure. Today electricity regulator STEPHEN LITTLECHILD defends the system as a world role model

IT IS surprising that the American Gregory Palast should find so much to criticise in the British electricity industry and its regulation compared to the situation in the US, when US regulators, companies and customers are actively trying to change their own systems to emulate key features of the new arrangements in Britain. It suggests that he has misunderstood what is happening in his own country just as he has failed to appreciate what is happening here in Britain.

It is not my intention to criticise US companies or their regulators. Many US electricity companies set high standards of efficiency and service to customers. In achieving their own significant improvements in efficiency and service to customers over the last few years, many of the British electricity companies have found it helpful to learn from some of the Americans and others. The entry of US companies into the British electricity market is a further opportunity to transfer best practice in both directions.

Mr Palast places much weight on the claim that on average domestic customers in the US pay less for their electricity than domestic customers in this country. However, there are large price variations within the US and many customers there pay more than customers in Britain do. There are other countries, such as New Zealand and South Africa, where domestic customers seem to pay less than in the US.

And Mr Palast does not mention the many other countries, including Japan, Germany, Belgium, France and Spain, where domestic customers pay more than in Britain.

It is absurd to claim that these price differences reflect differences between US and UK regulation. Many factors are at work, notably the cost of primary fuels and the effect of government policies. Mr Palast seems impressed by the fact that US electricity regulation requires nearly 50,000 experts and support staff. Many people might regard this as a measure of failure of regulation rather than a success.

Why does US regulation require such a formidable and costly bureaucracy? A major reason is that US rate-of-return regulation aims to reimburse companies for their operating costs and guarantees a return on their investment. What this means in practice is that companies devote enormous resources to persuading regulators that they had to spend what they did spend, to inflating their asset bases, and perhaps indulging in some of the practices which Mr Palast decries.

Small wonder that "entire buildings filled with accountants" are needed to track what the utilities are doing. But judging from the prices that US electricity companies have paid to purchase companies in Britain and elsewhere, it does not seem that they have been deprived of profits.

In devising regulatory controls in Britain, we consciously looked at US experience and sought to improve on it. The RPI-X approach to price control which has been developed in Britain certainly takes into account reasonable operating costs and capital investment, and a need to provide a return to shareholders. But it provides a better deal for customers and better efficiency incentives for companies in two respects. First, the RPI-X price control does not look to the past, it looks to the future. It does not ask what companies have spent, it asks how much less they would need to spend if they were more efficient. Second, by not clawing back profits that are achieved under this price control, it gives companies the incentive to be even more efficient, to beat the targets implicit in the price control. In the short term this may mean higher profits. These achieved reductions in costs are then passed on to customers when the price control is reset.

The new distribution price control for example, will cut distribution charges in England and Wales by one third over the period to the first two years. The same method of price control has also yielded dramatic price reductions in other regulated utilities, notably telecommunications, gas and airports. A further significant development in Britain, increasingly admired by many Americans and others, is the use of competition in generation and supply to reduce the burden of regulation and to provide increased protection for customers. Admittedly, competition in generation in Britain is not perfect. But real progress has been made since the break up of the CEBG monopoly in 1990. Smaller competitors have entered, and new generators have entered the market. The aggregate market share of National Power and PowerGen has declined by a quarter. It will decline further when they have discharged

their undertakings to sell capacity to competitors. Mr Palast's remark that no US generator has more than 2 per cent of the US market is misleading. It is no more relevant than to claim that the leading British generators have less than a 2 per cent share of the whole European market. There is no way in which a customer on the East Coast can get access to a generator on the West Coast, or a generator in Chicago compete for the business of a customer in New Orleans. For all practical purposes, most US customers are faced with a monopoly in generation from their local company. In 1998, all electricity customers in Britain will be able to choose their own electricity supplier. Competition in supply will be an extremely important protection for customers against suppliers with high profit margins, inefficient methods, poor quality of service or high priced generation contracts.

Mr Palast claims not to understand how the supply of electricity can be separated from ownership of the wires along which it is supplied. He is evidently unaware that half the electricity in Britain is already sold in a competitive market on precisely this basis. TRANSMISSION and distribution companies have to make their wires available on the same terms to all suppliers, and these terms are regulated by price controls. Suppliers compete actively to purchase generation economically and sell it to some 50,000 medium and large-sized customers throughout the country. As a result of competition, these customers have already benefited from significant reductions in prices, and improvements in other terms of sale, such as aggregate billing for all their sites in the country, which suits them better than previous billing arrangements. No one is complacent about the practical difficulties of creating competitive markets

in electricity or of implementing price control in those parts of the industry which remain monopolies. But I have no doubt that it is better to make the electricity industry answerable through competition to all 25 million customers than to hire another 49,800 regulatory staff. Britain is ahead of the world in creating a competitive electricity market to replace the monopolistic structures of the past. Key aspects of the British approach have already been implemented across the world, including Australia and New Zealand, Norway and Sweden, Argentina and Canada. Many other countries are watching with keen interest and learning from our experience. In the US, several state and federal regulatory authorities have announced their intention to move towards the sort of competitive market structure that we have pioneered in this country. Amongst other things, they are grappling with the problems of how to manage this change — in particular, how past uneconomic investments of the utilities should be treated in the new competitive environment; how far to separate generation, transmission, distribution and supply; whether to create new kinds of electricity spot markets; how to design and enforce common carriage obligations; and so on. In all these debates British experience is of critical relevance. Yet these debates appear to have passed Mr Palast by. It is difficult to believe that US policy makers, regulators, customers, industry leaders and other interest groups would be as impressed with our experience if the industry and regulatory framework in this country were as deeply flawed as Mr Palast suggests. On the contrary, recent developments have enabled electricity customers in Britain to benefit from increased efficiency, reduced prices and improved quality of service. The innovations in Britain have proved a model for the rest of the world.

Re-wiring the new power industry

Welsh Water Bid for Swalec	£872m	As you were No bids for Northern Electric, Yorkshire Electric, London Electricity, and E Midlands Electricity.	
CSW Bid for Seaboard	£1.1bn		
Southern Company Bid for SWEB	£1.1bn		
Scottish Power Bid for Manweb	£1.1bn		
NWest Water Bid for Norweb	£1.82bn		
PowerGen Bid for Midlands	£1.9bn		
Hanson Bid for Eastern	£2.5bn		
National Power Bid for Southern	£2.5bn		
Regional electricity companies			
When privatised: 1990			
Number of employees at privatisation: 82,480			
Number of employees in 1994/95: 63,000			
Proceeds from sell-off: £5.18 billion			
Turnover: £15.4 billion; pre-tax profits, £2,077 billion			
Last year's controversy: Long-running wrangle with government over whether to give consumers any of the proceeds of the flotation of the National Grid. Takeover fever sparked huge gains for investors and senior industry managers.			
Electricity regulator forced to rewrite price caps on industry after allegations he had been too lenient.			

UN lauds multinationals' assistance to Third World

Richard Thomas on a new report calculated to rile the aid charities

MULTINATIONAL corporations are boosting the economies of Third World countries by injecting capital, opening export markets and raising efficiency, the United Nations declares today.

In a report likely to provoke immediate condemnation from voluntary aid agencies, the UN Trade and Development arm says that multinational firms will create 55 trillion (£3.3 trillion) of wealth outside their home countries during 1996, and will invest heavily in poorer nations. The UN World Investment Report 1995, released today, argues that the global reach of companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon, IBM and General Motors is "a major factor in particular for countries struggling to catch up". With cross-border capital flows expected to hit \$250 billion this year, up from

\$191 billion in 1991 — and a third of the total going to developing countries — the UN says that multinationals has overtaken trade as the driving force behind global economic integration. On the eve of the report's official publication, Christian Aid accused the UN of failing to highlight the disadvantages, as well as benefits, of the increasing activity of first world companies in poorer countries. Peter Madden, Christian Aid's head of policy, said: "Transnational corporations have more and more freedom to go where and do what they like, with fewer and fewer social obligations."

He called for internationally-agreed minimum standards, to prevent "social dumping", whereby poor countries are forced to dilute or abolish legal controls over working conditions in order to woo big business. Cuts in the size of aid packages from the countries in the industrialised world were one reason poor nations were having to offer tax incentives, no-strike deals and minimal

obligations to attract private capital, he said. The UN report comes on the heels of an announcement from the British government that aid payments are to be restricted to the very poorest 20 countries. "This makes it harder to voice criticism against the multinationals," Mr Madden said. The UN admits that greater liberalisation of trade barriers has forced poorer countries to face competitive pressures. "It is less and less possible for individual firms to retreat into the safe havens of home markets. Competition is everywhere", the investment report says. But multinationals help Third World nations to adjust to new pressures by strengthening their productive capacity and training workers, the UN insists. In addition, they improve their home economies by relocating industries that are losing comparative advantage. The report cites the resuscitation of the British car industry by first American, and then Japanese, motor firms as an example.

News in brief

Maxwell jury holds retirement record

THE Maxwell trial entered the history books yesterday as the longest retirement by a jury. Meanwhile, any verdict was further delayed when a second juror was reported sick, and the remaining 10 were given another day off. Last night will have been the jurors' eleventh in a hotel — they were sent out to consider their verdicts on January 8.

The previous longest jury retirement in an Old Bailey trial was in April 1982, when jurors trying the race runner of Terry May, spent eight nights in a hotel, including the Easter weekend. The jury deliberation in the May case — more than 56 hours — remains the record.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell and financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg deny conspiring to defraud pension funds. Kevin Maxwell denies a second charge of conspiring with his late father Robert to defraud pension funds. — Dan Atkinson

Guinness in stout loss

MORE than £200 million was wiped off the stock market value of Guinness after it warned that profits from Japan would be lower than expected. Shares of the brewing and distilling group fell 3.5 per cent after the board said that further deterioration in the Japanese spirits market will cause 1996 profits from the region to fall £10 million short of expectations.

The board also warned that it would take an additional £30 million charge in 1996, boosting the total to \$54 million. The increase will include £10 million earmarked for cost reductions at United Distillers' in Europe and \$20 million for the restructuring of its struggling brewing operations in Spain. — Tony May

Murdoch son eyes top job

LACHLAN MURDOCH, Rupert Murdoch's son, said yesterday that he hoped eventually to take control of his father's worldwide media empire. Lachlan, 24, has been tipped to replace his 64-year old father at some point. He told the Sydney Morning Herald he thought he would make a good job of running News Corporation, although uncomfortable at media speculation on the subject.

Lachlan is already deputy chief executive of News Limited, News Corp's Australian arm, and deputy chairman of Star TV, News Corp's Asian satellite television service, as well as serving on an 11-member global strategy committee. — Ian King

DTI to study Caradon report

THE Stock Exchange said last night it had completed its investigation into dealings in Caradon shares ahead of the building materials company's share price warning last September. It has passed a report to the Department of Trade & Industry. The investigation was launched after a sharp fall in Caradon's share price forced the company into publishing its results two days ahead of schedule.

It is understood the investigation has centred on the sale of 10 million Caradon shares by merchant bank Robert Fleming's fund management arm, and on the role of analysts Martin Murray and David Reed, both of whom are now believed to have left the bank. Last night, Robert Fleming refused to comment. — Ian King

Diamond talks extended

CRUCIAL talks between the Russian government and diamond giant De Beers have been extended for one more month, a joint communiqué announced yesterday. The Russians, second only to De Beers itself in terms of diamond production, account for a quarter of world output and are seeking improved terms from De Beers in return for letting the South African group continue to market all Russian gems. — Dan Atkinson

Speculators called to account

BRISTOL & West Building Society has raised the opening balance on three accounts to £2,500 in an attempt to deter speculative investors. The society's action follows moves earlier this week by Alliance & Leicester and Britannia to close membership accounts to new investors amid flotation rumours. — Cliff Jones

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

BASE RATE CHANGE

With effect from close of business on Thursday 18th January 1996, Co-operative Bank Base Rate changes from 6.50% p.a. to 6.25% p.a.

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC. PART OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT
1 Balloon St., Manchester M60 4EP. Tel: 0161 832 3456

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. announces that with effect from close of business on 18 January 1996 its Base Rate was decreased from 6.50% to 6.25% p.a.

AIB

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MIDLAND

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATES

With effect from 19th January 1996

Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 6.25%

Midland Bank plc

The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Tennis", "Ange Beck from", and "Results".

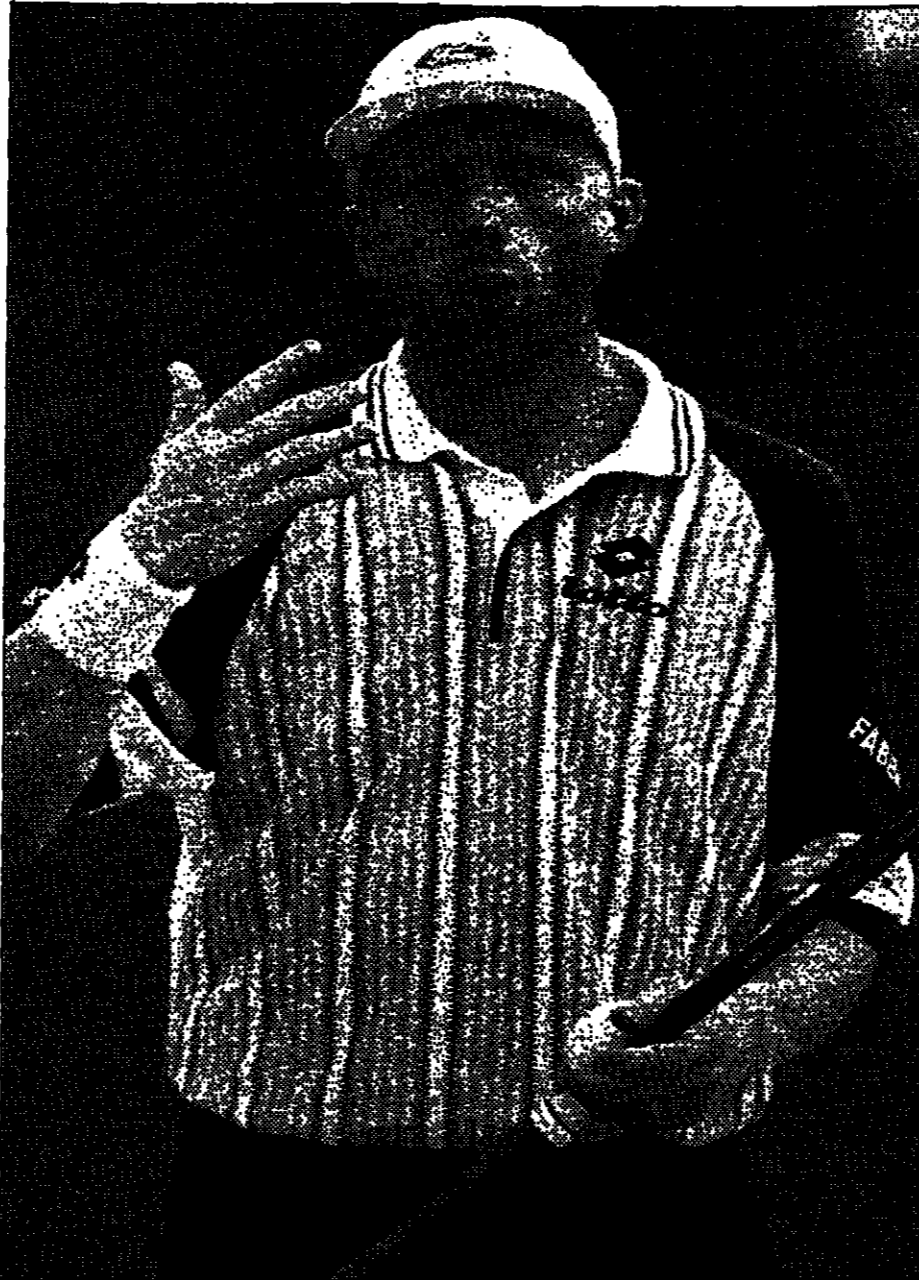
Tennis

Anger brings Becker back from brink

David Irvine in Melbourne

AT 17 it seemed astonishing that Boris Becker...

It was a tribute to the German's never-say-die attitude...



Love game... Becker blows a kiss to Swedish fans who insulted him

Kempton card with guide to the form

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Kempton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Catterick

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Catterick, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Southwell (A.W.)

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Sovereigns should triumph

TRUMP Hurdle clues should be forthcoming when Osean Hawk, Donnapell and Sovereigns Parade clash...

Racing

Alliance stands up to scrutiny

Graham Rock on the Cheltenham chase which is considered too tough for novices

THE Sun Alliance Chase, the championship race for staying novices...

Sun Alliance took over the sponsorship 10 years later. Two of the first three winners...

home A Kinsman in '84. Rhyme 'N' Reason unseated behind Antarctic Bay in 1985...

OPERATIVE BANK SE RATE CHANGE

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

Results table for various horse races.

Results table for various horse races.

Results table for various horse races.

Advertisement for RACELINE and KEMPTON/SOUTHWELL bookies.

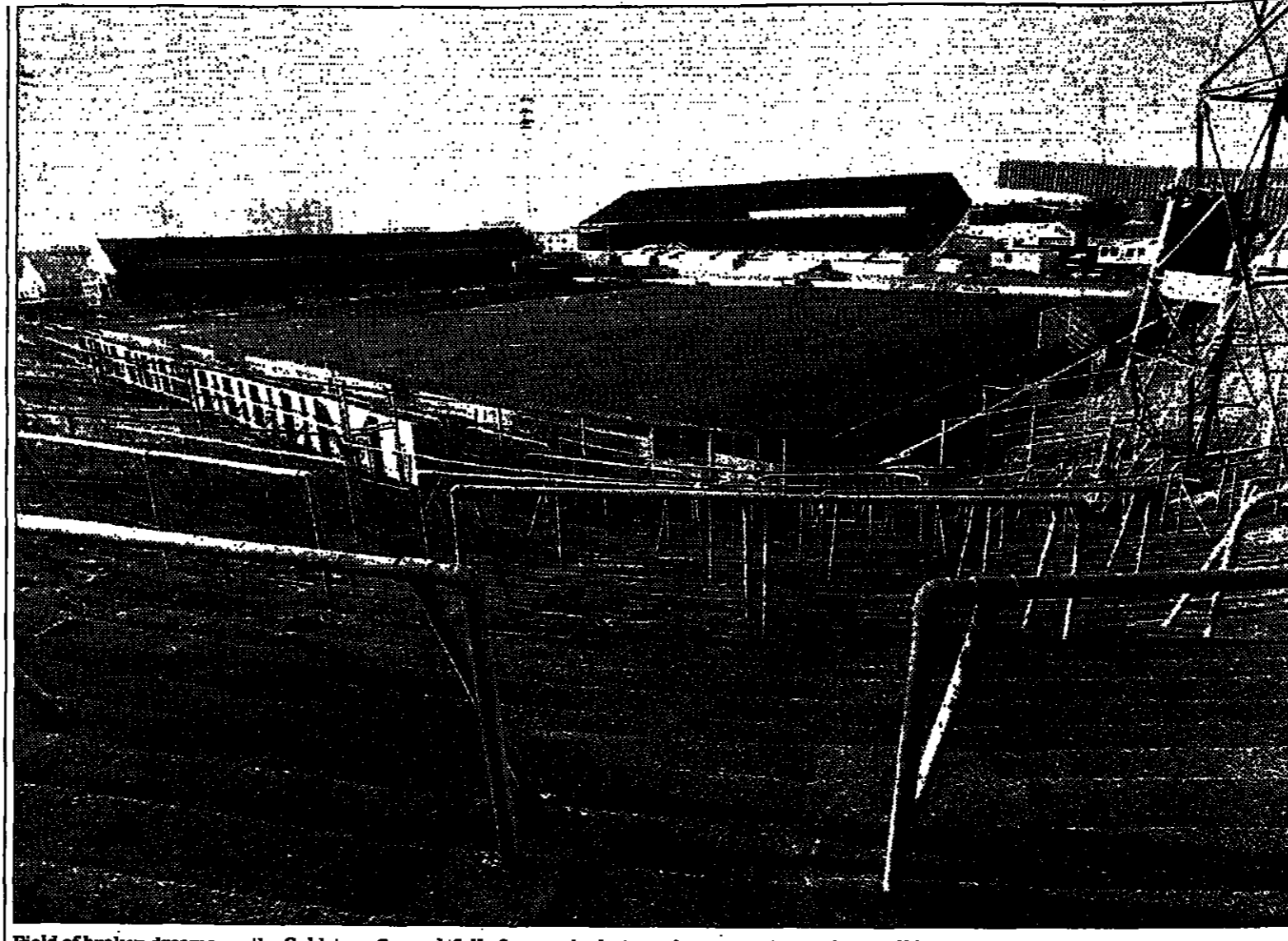
Soccer

Platt hit by new injury

Don Beut

AS IF being knocked out of the FA Cup at Sheffield United was not enough, Arsenal's manager Bruce Riech suffered another severe setback yesterday when David Platt went into hospital for a knee operation...

ship match against Everton, as will the central defenders Tony Adams and Martin Edey, who start two-match suspensions...



Field of broken dreams... the Goldstone Ground, full of memories but now in a sorry state and sold off for redevelopment

Keegan faces more spending

David Lacey

THE moment that Peter Beardsley's opening penalty hit the bar in their FA Cup shoot-out with Chelsea, Newcastle United's season was assured of its destiny...

Lincoln City only \$500,000 for this Nottingham-born midfielder, who offers further proof of the need to keep the lower divisions alive...

Seagulls with nowhere to land

David Lacey on the mounting troubles that threaten to end in Brighton's demise

DOWN Sussex way the Seagulls' wall grows increasingly desperate. Being knocked out of the FA Cup in a shoot-out by a penalty from the Fulham goalkeeper...

and Stanley inherited the Fads decorating business, subsequently sold to Boots. The pair went into partnership to form Focus DTV...

for a \$600,000 loan "has now amounted to £285,000, nearly 50 per cent of the original sum"

and simply want the agony and simply want a share of the sale price and the club put out of its misery

Leaving aside profits from the transfer market, profits had jumped from \$259,000 to £2.53 million

Spurs treble their profits

Tony May

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's profits more than trebled from £2.1 million in the first six months of the financial year...

City reaction to the news saw the group's shares - just over half held by Sugar - just over half held by Sugar

He reported that the club had acquired a new training centre at Chigwell, to open by the end of March

He concluded that the company's performance in the second half of the year would depend to some extent on the club's run in the FA Cup

Cricket

Illy back on the attack

HAVING seen off Devon Malcolm, Ray Illingworth is particularly pleased to see his return to the international scene

England's outspoken chairman of selectors has long advocated structural change in the domestic game

Illingworth also bemoaned his side's general lack of professionalism. "I was quick to distance myself from the criticism"

Rugby League

Saints lose their halo

ONE of the reasons Paul Hughes, the game's costliest player, joined St Helens last November was because they were a "friendly" club

There was, in fact, nothing friendly about the way Saints treated Bernard, who was to put right what St Helens considered to be the prime flaw under Hughes

Base Rate Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from Thursday 18 January 1996 its Base Rate has been reduced from 6.50% per annum to 6.25% per annum.

Results

Soccer FAI CUP First round: Wexford Celtic 2, Cherry Orchard 1...

Rugby Union INTERNATIONAL France v England (6.0), Japan v South Africa (5.5)

Badminton JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo): Selected seeded results: Matsui P, Rasmussen C...

Cricket WORLD SERIES (Melbourne): Final Australia 207-7 (50 overs) vs New Zealand 188-9 (50 overs)

Rugby League STONE CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP: St Helens v Wigan

NatWest National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 18 January 1996 its Base Rate is reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.

Rugby Union

Pit-bull muzzled but not silent

Paul Weaver finds Brian Moore in a mellow mood as England's former hooker contemplates a life without Frenchmen to bait

BRIAN MOORE, with gently smiling eyes, dark suit and his lawyer's hands clasped together, appeared to be travelling incognito at a London lunch yesterday. "That 'im?" asked a waiter with incredulity. "He normally looks very cross."

retired Moore would not be lining up against them at the Parc des Princes tomorrow in the opening match of the Five Nations. France have not beaten England in this competition since 1988 and England have won in Paris on the past four occasions.

"I think it's an important part of the game, and it all came naturally to me," he said at yesterday's Sports Writers' Association lunch. England's captain Will Carling is missing Moore already. "Brian used to do very well at winding the French up," he said yesterday.

In Paris, Moore will be commenting for Radio Five Live, and said: "I will be feeling very odd before the kick-off, wondering where I would be changing and experiencing that bonding feeling that comes with looking at Jason Leonard and Jeff Probyn and knowing that these are players you are going to be locked in combat with."

and if they do I think they would win all their other matches. But I would put my money on France. Their pack is technically good and very strong. "This match could decide the championship — with Ireland the dark horses — and I would always have gone into it with Dean Richards."

about when to retire. "If he thinks he can do another four years, fine. And he is playing well at the moment. But he should make sure he gets out while his form is still good."

England need no French incentives

Robert Armstrong in Paris

BONUS systems may suit some squads in the Five Nations Championship now that rugby is professional, but Will Carling said yesterday that England would not need the incentive of a win bonus to give their best performance in tomorrow's opener against France at the Parc des Princes. The importance of the tournament would be sufficient motivation for last year's Grand Slam winners, the England captain said.

Though Carling is among the wealthiest players in Europe as a spin-off from his rugby success, there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of his indifference to win bonuses. "The Five Nations is still a great tournament to play in and a very tough World Cup has now become the main competition in which to measure yourself," he said. "The Five Nations has its own special atmosphere and a number of other countries would love to be involved in a similar event."

He said that France, for him, still represented the ultimate challenge in the northern hemisphere, notwithstanding England's four successive wins in Paris during the Nineties. "I am always very keen to win against any Five Nations team but I have to admit France offer the biggest physical and mental challenge. I love playing in Paris and the threat of the French tends to bring out the best in us. You cannot go to Paris doubting your own ability."

Carling's international debut against France in 1988 was a 10-0 defeat in Paris, a setback that was not repeated until France won their World Cup third-place play-off in Pretoria last June. "We were taught a World Cup lesson that day," he said, "but it was a different type of rugby and a very different atmosphere to what you get in the Five Nations. Still, it's nice not to be favourites for Saturday, as we have been for the past five or six years. We have the chance to rise above people's expectations."

Despite France's World Cup victory Carling insisted they still feared England. "They have some of the best running backs in the world, players like Saint-André, Ntamack and Sadourny, and they can pose a different kind of threat. But I think they'll mainly play a kicking game against us. They're desperate to win and we'll have to be very, very positive."

Carling's international debut against France in 1988 was a 10-0 defeat in Paris, a setback that was not repeated until France won their World Cup third-place play-off in Pretoria last June. "We were taught a World Cup lesson that day," he said, "but it was a different type of rugby and a very different atmosphere to what you get in the Five Nations. Still, it's nice not to be favourites for Saturday, as we have been for the past five or six years. We have the chance to rise above people's expectations."



The Dax bludgeon... Richard Dourthe provides the steel in France's new midfield pairing. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID ROGERS

Two centres in their element

Ian Borthwick on the young partnership France's fans call fire and water and who are unfazed by Carling and England

THERE is a most disturbing tendency in the new generation of French rugby players. They have, it appears, no respect for their elders, and, if Thomas Castaignède is any indication, even less for established rituals on the field of play.

and Dourthe in particular having their own private battle off the ball. "What do you mean we lacked respect for the All Blacks?" exclaims Castaignède. "They did not exactly respect us either, and if things did get a little carried away it was because they were continually trying to provoke us. They knew we were young, and they were just trying to intimidate us. So Richard decided it was time to sort them out."

rather play alongside him than against him. Since their arrival in the France squad their infectious enthusiasm and youthful ebullience have rocked some of the older players out of their set ways. "Having guys like Thomas and Richard inside me suddenly makes me feel old," quips Philippe Saint-André, the captain. "They have brought a lot of freshness to the team and to the way we play. But they still have to maintain their self-control and discipline, especially against Carling and England."

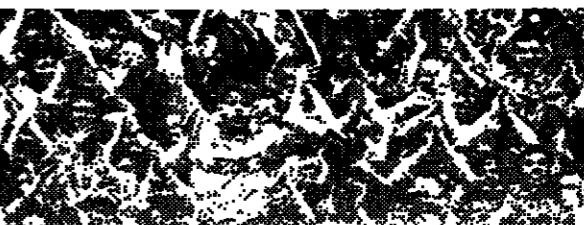
Equally at ease at centre or fly-half, Castaignède has also proved his worth as a goal-kicker, with a 55-metre penalty against New Zealand and a crucial drop goal for Toulouse in the recent European Cup final against Cardiff to his credit.

Playing with an astonishing audacity and bravado, the two young whippersnappers tried in to fill the gaps left by Philippe Sella and Thierry Lacroix showed, despite only 41 years and four caps between them, precious little deference to their opposite numbers, with Bunce

Castaignède... the rapier



for the first time in 10 attempts to win the Guangzhou Masters, writes Clive Everton. Drago's 6-2 win earned him £11,000. The finalists needed a police escort out of the arena after spending 90 minutes signing autographs for a crowd of 2,300.



Extra time Atlanta's tick may prove a cross

HARD on the heels of North Korea's entry this month for the Games in Atlanta — and the IOC's rejoicing at its first 100 per cent attendance of eligible nations (197) since the second world war — a blot has emerged on that perfect landscape. A number of European three-day event horses are being excluded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

must be possible over the wider cross-country course. Frits Sluiter, the International Equestrian Federation veterinary officer, says it "would need to be a very fast tick to attach to a horse's tail gland". Even such acaricide treatments would get it in the wash.

Under pressure it has granted a waiver for dressage and showjumping horses, subject to strict conditions and, adding cheek to inconsistency, on the understanding that those federations with seropositive horses meet the costs of implementation. Huge profits are expected from the Games; and, if ticks can be excluded from one area, it

But parents of the teenagers can, and are considering going to court. Presumably they will be well briefed.

Sixth column

HAD the Man of the Match votes been collected at the end of rugby league's Regal Trophy final the award would almost certainly have gone to Henry Paul. Thus did the Guardian's report on Monday put its finger on a further deftness in such awards.

ROMANIA's most famous tennis player, now 49, is to run for Mayor of Bucharest under the slogan "Ile Nastase — an honest person". Residents complain that city dignitaries enter office to fill their own pockets. Nastase may not need to. He has homes in Paris and New York. He was recently elected as a leading member of Romania's ruling party. This is Social Democracy.

Paul Fitzpatrick accepts both the obsession and the insanity. He recalls the 1978 Challenge Cup final in which Leeds beat St Helens 14-12. Votes for the Lance Todd Trophy were cast 15 minutes from time, before Holmes on chestrated Leeds's thrilling fight-back. He was unquestionably the man of the match but Nicholls received one of the game's most coveted awards. Like Cunningham last Saturday, Nicholls was man of the first 65 minutes.

MARK RING, who has had 15 roofed over, increased from time, before Holmes on chestrated Leeds's thrilling fight-back. He was unquestionably the man of the match but Nicholls received one of the game's most coveted awards. Like Cunningham last Saturday, Nicholls was man of the first 65 minutes.

CRICKET's press accreditation for the World Cup were announced this week. Australia has 14 whereas Sri Lanka has 40, the hosts at Sri Lanka and only one fewer than Pakistan, another of the host nations. India has 23, of whom 101 are photographers.

THE Bath Evening Chronicle attributed remarkable perception in its report on the second one-day international in South Africa: "I would have given the Man of the Match award to Hickey," said Atherton. "He played some great shots and was most unlucky to be given out before he produced an innings that none of us will forget."

SAM YOUNG, a grocery clerk in Dallas, was fined for wearing a Green Bay Packers shirt to work last Saturday. Exceptionally, before the NFL play-off, staff were told by memo they could wear "team colours" instead of regular uniform. Young, a Redskin fan, reckoned he could "wear the colours of his choice". Minsky Food Stores thought otherwise. He went against the grain of a corporate advertising campaign which revealed a significant increase in sales fans — the significance being lost in self-confessed suspect methodology — the FA has full-page ads in Marie Claire, Cosmopolitan, Options and Elle. Aimed at ticket sales for Euro '96, she shows a woman superimposed with "How can I lie back and think of England when Venables hasn't finalised the squad?"

MA's ARMY is on the march for Atlanta via Songman in south-western Yunnan province. The Chinese coach Ma Junren has taken 40 athletes to altitude training (7,150ft). "Watch us tidy up the foreigners at the Olympics," Ma said before imposing a news black-out. The reconstituted squad is called the Lioness Women's Long Distance Running Team. It includes "a teenage sensation Jiang Bo and men".

LAST week's case of the Gulliver girls in Lilliput briefs who were disqualified from their third place in the Florida cross-country championships for taking a short cut — in costume not course — was heard on Saturday. The state's High School Activities Association declined to reinstate the Miami preparatory school on the ground that, if it did, "the authority of the officials who made the decision would be undermined, even though the ruling was acknowledged to be ambiguous and will be altered".

THE Football Association has launched an advertising campaign at women. Unconvinced by the Premier League survey of fans which revealed a significant increase in sales fans — the significance being lost in self-confessed suspect methodology — the FA has full-page ads in Marie Claire, Cosmopolitan, Options and Elle. Aimed at ticket sales for Euro '96, she shows a woman superimposed with "How can I lie back and think of England when Venables hasn't finalised the squad?"

Clydesdale Bank BASE RATE Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from close of business on 18th January 1996 its Base Rate has been reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.

Sport in brief

Hockey John Shaw replaces Russell Garcia, who has stomach trouble, as Great Britain face India today in their first match of the Olympic qualifying tournament here, writes Pat Routley in Barcelona. Garcia will be missed as the alternative corner striker to Calum Giles. Netherlands are favourites with Britain and India to fill the top three places in this eight-team round-robin event.

Squash Del Harris, the England No. 1, gained prompt consolation for failing to regain the British national title when he beat the new holder, Peter Nicol of Scotland, in four games in a national Super League match, writes Richard Jago.

Motor Sport France's former world rally champion Didier Auriol is to join this year's holder, Britain's Colin McRae, as 555 Subaru become a four-car team this season. Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson and Italy's Piero Liatti are the other drivers.

Snooker Tony Drago of Malta, the world No. 14, beat Steve Davis

for the first time in 10 attempts to win the Guangzhou Masters, writes Clive Everton. Drago's 6-2 win earned him £11,000. The finalists needed a police escort out of the arena after spending 90 minutes signing autographs for a crowd of 2,300.

Bowls Bowls fever has hit Preston, where in the first week a record number of more than 12,000 tickets, nearly a sell-out, were sold for the Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championship at the Guild Hall from February 12-25.

Cricket England tour to SA Live commentary 0891 22 88 28 Match Reports 0891 22 88 29

Becker survives another struggle, page 13
Illingworth returns to the attack, page 14

Platt faces a second knee operation, page 14
A snarl from the missing Pit-Bull, page 15

SportsGuardian

Pay-TV fears mount over Bruno fight

Andrew Gull on Murdoch plans to charge £20 to watch showdown with Mike Tyson

THE furore over Rupert Murdoch's increasing domination of televised sport intensified yesterday as it emerged that his satellite station may charge viewers up to £20 to watch Frank Bruno's world heavyweight title fight against Mike Tyson.

BSkyB is considering introducing pay-per-view to British TV for the World Boxing Council fight in Las Vegas on March 16. The move fuelled concern at Westminster about the way in which Murdoch's satellite channel is using its inexhaustible chequebook to buy up Britain's sporting jewels.

Last night Jack Cunningham, the shadow National Heritage secretary, who has already pledged Labour to tougher protection for eight top-listed sports events, expressed alarm at BSkyB's latest move.

"Millions of people in Britain are increasingly concerned about the future of sport on TV," he said. "That is why Labour is determined to address the whole issue of televised sport in the Broadcasting Bill."

A spokesman for Sky Sports would not confirm reports that the Bruno fight is to be used to pioneer pay-per-view technology. "No decision has been taken on pay-per-view and when it might be launched and what kind of programme. Pay-per-view is something for the future," he said.

Despite BSkyB's reluctance to confirm the plan, the head of programming, David Elstein, has previously hinted that boxing would be ideal for

'People here are becoming increasingly concerned for the future of sport on television'

a number of hurdles that would have to be overcome, including a potential backlash from Sky subscribers, who already pay more than £20 a month.

The legal ramifications of introducing pay-per-view to a channel for which customers already subscribe are also being examined. There are questions as to whether BSkyB's subscriber-management centre in Livingston, Scotland would be able to cope with the strain of processing payments as soon as March.

Discussions are also taking place over pressure from the

Bruno camp for a share of the additional revenue generated by pay-per-view when he fights Tyson. The American's first fight after release from prison grossed more than \$105 million.

Pay-per-view, in which a special decoder charge card has to be used to unscramble the picture, has been common practice in the United States for a decade and is likely soon to become a routine feature of Sky Sports, particularly for Premiership football.

With the advent of digital satellite technology — providing more than 100 channels within the next year — the station could screen every Premiership game, charging individual access fees for each match.

BSkyB's faith in boxing was underlined by the audience response to Bruno's title fight. Warren, who has put together a two-year boxing package for the satellite station, has claimed that the Wembley contest, which reached 82.5 per cent of the satellite station's subscribers, and another involving the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion Prince Naseem Hamed, "are the two biggest programmes ever shown on Sky, and not just sports programmes."

Warren said at a sport and television seminar this week. "I was with TTV for 14 years but what neither ITV nor the BBC was prepared to do was to commit money to the grassroots development of sport, which is what Sky is doing."

The BBC, for years the TV home of boxing, has virtually turned its back on the sport. Where once it televised even the semi-finals of the Amateur Boxing Association championships live and in their entirety, coverage is now reduced to nine minutes of highlights from the finals.

Watch the money-eating monster in your front room

Ian Katz in New York on the rise of US sport's least popular medium

PAY-PER-VIEW has become a dirty three-legged word to American sports fans ever since the industry grew out of closed-circuit television broadcasts in the early Eighties.

Recognised as money-spinners for promoters in the Seventies, pay-per-view broadcasts were first confined to boxing, wrestling and minority US interests such as soccer, but mainstream sports have begun to abandon the free airwaves.

In recent seasons several NBA basketball teams, including the Chicago Bulls and the Phoenix Suns, have signed deals with pay-per-view companies to screen games not shown on free TV. These games are presented as a bonus to the usual schedule of televised matches and fans are typically offered a "season-tick" rate for all games, but the flight to pay-per-view is the subject of endless

complaints on sports pages across the United States.

Only college football games are shown on pay-per-view — the end-of-season bowls are still screened for free — but an NFL experiment with satellite TV is seen as a prelude to a move to the more lucrative form of broadcasting.

Boxing, however, remains the biggest draw. Mike Tyson's 89-second comeback against Peter McNeeley last year was bought by 1.5 million households, eclipsing the record of 1.4 million set by the 1991 Evander Holyfield v George Foreman fight.

The Tyson fight cost pay-per-viewers about \$30 (£19.50) a minute, poor value for money, and one consequence was a backlash which saw the promoter Don King choose a free-TV deal with Rupert Murdoch's Fox network for Tyson's following bout with Buster Mathis Jr in November.

The appeal of pay-per-view to fighters and promoters is easy to fathom: Tyson got \$50 million (£32 million) for the broadcast rights to the McNeeley fight compared with less than \$10 million from Fox.

Despite the spectacular flop of a special pay-per-view "triplecast" from the 1992 Olympics, pay TV has continued to grow rapidly, helped by improvements in technology which have made it easier to order programmes. More than 23 million households are now regular with adverts for pay-per-view programmes on several so-called "barker" channels, up from under 2 million in 1983.

Viewers can request films or sporting events by telephoning their cable or satellite company or ordering directly from special remote-control units. Fees, which vary from \$9.95 (£6.50) for a college football game to \$44.95 (£29) for the Tyson-McNeeley fight, can be paid by credit card or added to a subscriber's monthly bill.

CHAMPION OUT OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN



Exit line... Pierce leaves the court after her 'off-day' defeat. PHOTOGRAPH: TOMMY HINDLEY

Pierce blunders to the earliest exit in 25 years

David Irvine in Melbourne

NO ONE can erase Mary Pierce's name from the Grand Slam roll of honour but among the elite septet who have won the women's singles titles in the last eight years, the Australian champion of just 12 months ago, more than any other, should count her blessings at finding herself in such company.

Yesterday the first Frenchwoman to win a major singles championship since open tennis started, looked anything

but a champion as she took her leave in the second round at Flinders Park — the earliest exit any holder had made in over a quarter of a century.

Pierce, showing appalling incompetence, was outplayed 6-4, 6-4 by the player ranked 51 in the world, Elena Likhovtseva of Alma-Ata in Kazakhstan. It had been an off-day, Pierce said.

Always a one-dimensional player with a heavy reliance on her pounding forehand, Pierce looked more like a novice than a champion as she floundered her way to defeat. Her total inability to change her tactics or even play with prudence was bewildering.

Sadly her post-match comments were in keeping with her performance. "There is always another year," she said. "And this gives me more time to get ready for my next tournament." That is in Paris, when Steffi Graf is expected to make her comeback — and by then Pierce will have fallen out of the Top Ten.

All told, her 35 unforced errors made up almost 50 per cent of the points won by the patient but meticulous Likhovtseva. At 20, her career is rich in promise and she made it clear that she can now live with the power players.

Becker battle, page 13

Likhovtseva... meticulous

Weekend full of schertain pleashure



Frank Keating

DDOUBLE CHECK — passports, pounds, pints, francs, tickets, train, plane, wives, mistresses, hotels, hip-flasks, and various bars, boulevards, restaurants for rendezvous with friends whom you last left with the heavy morning-after shillabub shambles of "Be shure to shoe you next year".

Alors, bejassus, ooh-aye, and what-ho. Here we go again. The Five Nations. *Le weekend perdu.*

Those superior souls of rugby's southern hemisphere have sneered for years at Europe's Five Nations. Sheer green-eyed jealousy. At first time of asking the big ones down there have now signed up for their own annual Three Nations Championship. It will be nothing like the same. You cannot "invent" traditions which must be matured in the cask of unpeeped decades. Like the Five Nations.

This season's championship, which kicks off tomorrow in Paris and Dublin, looks to have all the competitive makings of a knockout. Any season promises riches when the French boss being brim-full and in the trim and as pre-match cocksure as their knights once at Agincourt — "let us but blow them, the vapour of our valour o'erturns Englishmen" — and a new Ireland team fancy their chances with a sober realism rather than just a gorgeous clamorous pessimism.

For the first time in yonks England gingerly tiptoe to France. The novel feeling might yet serve them well. They have nothing to lose. Two true champions of England, Carling and Guscott, both turned 30 last year. They are marked tomorrow by two callow *copains* of barely 20. There's a game in a match for you.

ENGLAND'S supporters poured at Twickenham last month when the team kicked penalties and did not run in 60 points against Western Samoa, but tomorrow the visiting throng will be pin-drop silent and genuflecting in prayer if Paul Grayson goes for goal in the last minute for a win by 3-0. Grayson represents another reason why this latest series is

particularly garnished with relish. He is an eager new No. 10 to the ancient manor born. In Gregor Townsend, Scotland field another in Dublin. Wales as well, in a fortnight when they open their championship drapes, with their spindly man-child Arwel Thomas, who by all accounts looked the right stuff at Arms Park on Tuesday.

Oh, for them to endure as three grand playmakers of the legendary line, prepared to be conductor, orchestrator, first violin, cymbals, producer, focus-cameraman, editor and director, to call the shots and carry the can (and mix the metaphors!).

What you can already glimpse in the trio recalls a conversation between that duo of the same lore, Mike Gibson and Barry John, during the long flight with the Lions to New Zealand in 1971.

"Have you noticed," remarked Mike, "that how your opposing fly-half acts in the couple of minutes before kick-off informs you with certainty if it's going to be a jolly good game or not?"

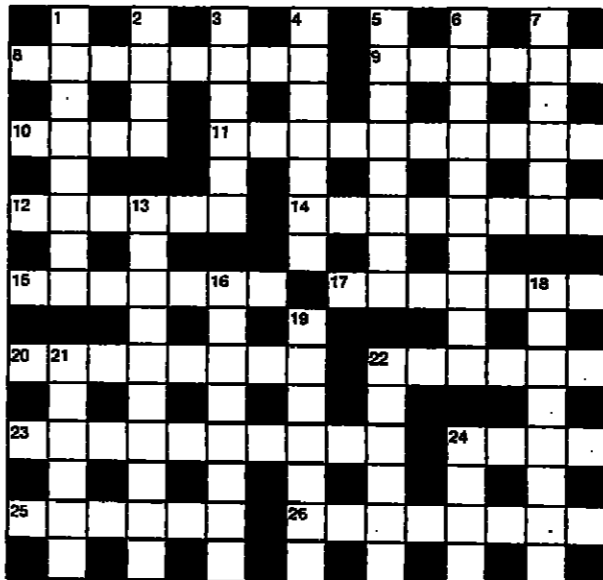
"Exactly," enthused Barry, leaping to the theme, "you just need to see their team run to the field to tell which is the fly-half. See how he demands the ball and twiddles and twirls it about, atwotch with delight and glee and anticipation and strut... On the other hand, if the guy with 10 on his back ambles out, slings one desultory pass to a mate and then prettily waits for kick-off with his arms folded and eyes dull, it's 99 per cent certain all of us might as well go home there and then."

NOT all kids' stuff. For Ireland, doughty Eric the Good keeps his hand and warring old boot on the tiller, but for France, Lacroix pulls on the No. 10 jersey which, had he worn it at the World Cup, might have won the whole thing for the *Allez* cats. You can make out a case that Deyland at fly lost it for them, so out of sorts and shoe-shuffling gum was he, so flour-faced and slack-gowned a pierrat comedian it was as if Tati was director for laughs, not Berbizier. Methinks Lacroix will be an altogether crisper cross for England to crack.

Le Parc and lovely Lansdowne are daunting for visitors. But what a nice weekend line by the former England stalwart Jeff Probyn, recalling his first match in Paris in 1968. As he tremulously entered the raucous bearpit, his mentor Paul Rendall told the tyro: "Don't worry about these 60,000 French, mate. Just think of the 20 million in front of the telly back home." *Précisément.*

Guardian Crossword No 20,553

Set by Shed

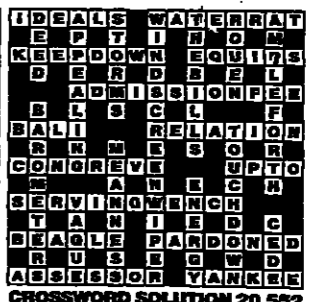


Across

- 8 Surrealist to snoop around and get knotted (6)
- 9 Empty grave featured in a horror writer's climax (6)
- 10 Believes taking the veil repelled 22cns (4)
- 11 Merry exchange about non-TV writer and conductor (10)
- 12 Annoyance at outset of the game (6)
- 14 Audio equipment, etc, returned without advantage (8)
- 15 Powerful in past, present and future, say (7)
- 17 Alternatively, be twice 10 in Uganda (7)
- 20 Gin and offal from Cologne we consumed (6)
- 22 Norman lore? (6)
- 23 Have second thoughts about Bishop flanking City in play (10)

Down

- 1 Yorick, say, firm in the middle (6)
- 2 Deep sea dweller (4)
- 3 Rock and stake used for killing people (6)
- 4 Counsel one finishing up bigoted (7)
- 5 Cheese from the hill getting number below par (6)
- 6 Is kept 10 confused by jargonese 13 (10)
- 7 Order what's in the cream (6)
- 13 Men duo, perhaps, to receive scheme for non-22cns (10)
- 16 Southern playwright keeping second one on the shelf (6)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,552

- 18 Ordered to swallow jam, having obstruction (6)
- 19 Court composer first to see outcome in court (7)
- 21 Feel bad about the length of the bedchamber (6)
- 22 Frying-pan keeping king and queen in hand (6)
- 24 After what 6 are after (4)

Solution tomorrow

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She cites a chat show where a participant coming out as gay was cheered, while another, declaring himself bisexual, was booed. The explanation is not difficult to find. Since Aids, homosexuals may be viewed with sympathy, even admiration, but bisexuals are seen as criminals, creeping out to roll in the gay trough and then sneaking back to infect their innocent wives and children.
George Melly, book review

Review page 14

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